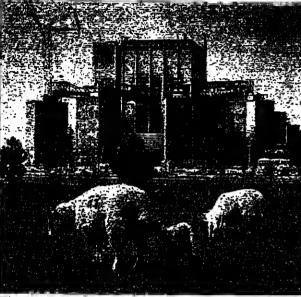
BLONDE AMBITION The rise of the

media bimbo

REVEALED: BRITAIN MOST STOLEN BOOKS Why Peter Rabbi

TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 1995 See page 14 for toker

Britain's nuclear era comes to an end



First: Berkeley, in Gloucestershire, opened in July 1962

Hinkley and Sizewell stations are scrapped

MARY FAGAN and **CHARLES ARTHUR**

Britain's nuclear power indus-Britain's nuclear power indus-cision not to go ahead with ny faces extinction following the Sizewell C in Suffolk or Hinkdecision by British Energy, the ley C in Somerset was taken on soon-to-be privatised inuclear—the grounds that they would not company, to abanton plans to be commercially viable.

industry lies in cleaning up the Stephen Littlechild. legacy of radioactive waste created by its 50-year failed

periment". But an independent expert warned that the decision could jeopardise safety in the industry. "In any industry that is shrinking it's hard to keep morale high, said Professor Ian Fells of Newcastle University. "I worry about retaining the culture of safety in those

circumstances. The decision will also have a dramatic impact on the construction industry, which had looked forward to the creation of more than 10,000 jobs lasting up to five years in building the two plants that had been Robert Hawley, British Energy's chief executive, said that the de-

build any new generating plants. He blamed the excess gen-The decision sounded the crating capacity in the UK and death knell for nuclear power, a cap on prices in the electricin Britain. Environmentalists ity-trading system imposed by warned that the inture for the the regulator, Professor

> Britain's first commercial nuclear power plant opened at Berkeley, in Gloucestershire, in July 1962, a 167 megawatt Magnox plant which closed in March of 1989. The most recently opened, the 1,258 megawatt pressurised water reactor (PWR) at Sizewell B, started operations in February this year and is expected to operate until 2045.

> Bridget Woodman of the environmental group Greenpeace welcomed the decision and said: "British Energy has finally accepted what everyone else has realised for the past six or seven years. No one in their right minds would put money into



building a new nuclear power station when they are so risky financially and environmentally However, Dr Hawley said

that he is convinced that in the future there will be a case for new nuclear plants as the price of eas - now widely used in power stations - rises and as people are persuaded they can help in the fight against the greenhouse effect.

At present there are 16 nuclear power stations in Britain. employing 9,700 people. They provide almost 30 per cent of Britain's electricity, supplemented by the effective output of two more nuclear power sta-

tions in France via an undersea cable.

Unions said that the decision "has realised the worst fears of the trade unions representing workers in the nuclear generating industry".

Tony Cooper, secretary of the Electricity Supply Trade Union Council, said that British jobs and expertise are now at risk, adding: "Throwing in the lowel on a new nuclear huild even before privatisation has taken place clearly signals British Energy's intention to concentrate on alternative methods of electricity generation in the interests of short term profit."

The £3bn Sizewell C station. based on the same Pressurised Water Reactor technology as the recently completed Sizewell B.

would have taken seven years to build and created up to 6,000 construction jobs in the area. It could also have created many thousands of jobs throughout the country. The new station at Hinkley, for which planning permission has already been given and was expected to cost £1.9bn. could have created an estimated 4,000 construction jobs over a six-year

period. One City analyst said that the decision to abandon new nu-

clear build could reduce the Government's revenues from the privatisation, which is at present expected to raise between

£2.5bn and £3bn. Dr Hawley rejected speculation that the company now plans to diversify into gas, saymg that over-capacity in the generating market and the low prices in the market makes any new plants unviable at present. But he said that British Energy is becoming a supplier of electricity to the end-user and is "thinking about" the possibility of buying a regional electricity firm.

Analysis, page 2

Blair plan for elected city bosses

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

A radical overhaul of Prime Minister's Question Time and the first-ever introduction of directly elected city mayors are at the centre of a sweeping new agenda for political reform which Tony Blair, the Labour cader, is intending to unveil beween now and the general election.

Mr Blair revealed in an interview with the Independent that he favours replacing the twice-weckly Commons Question Time - including the "ahsurd ritual under which questions are put - as part of a big shake-up of "antiquated and out-of-touch" parliamentary procedures.

And he disclused that he was strongly warming to the idea that Labour should bring in powerful, directly elected mayors for hig cities - including London iл a move to restore public interest in town hall politics and act as a "modern symbol of local government."

Mr Blair said that he had already written to the Commons Select Committee on procedure proposing the introduction of a half-hour long once-a-week new-style Prime Minister's Question time, Mr Blair believes that TV's attention to the "personally ahusive exchanges" on Tuesday and Thorsday 5 a key factor in bringing Westininster politics into public disrepute.

He said: "There needs to be an acceptance that questions should genuinely hold ministers to account and elicit information." Mr Blair envisages running the new half-hour session - possibly on Wednesdays - for a trial period which if successful would lead to an end to the present Tuesday and Thursday 5-minute sessions.

The Labour leader, who said that he was "worried about the calibre of people going into polities at every level said of Labour's proposal to follow

European and US practice by introducing city mayors that it could play a vital role in what he wanted to see as a full-scale

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revival of local government. He acknowledged that a proposal for directly elected may ors would meet opposition from some Labour councillors and insisted that no final decisions had been made. But he added: "The party is discussing the proposal and I don't want to shur that discussion down, But I think we need to have a modern symbol of local government.

He declared: "My commitment to changing politics to a



new and different politics is total. I want to change the political culture of Britain. It is old-fashioned and out of date.

Mr Blair said that his proposed shake-up of Commons Question Time was part of a ider range of chang liamentary procedures which included the way in which bills passed through the Commons. He said he wanted to see many more special standing commit tees of the kind he abortively suggested to John Major should consider the present Asylum and Immigration Bill.

Mr Blair also gave a hint that he might not insist on all Calinet ministers voting the same way in the referendum on electoral reform he has promised for the next Parliament.

Full interview, page 19

justa small one.

Branson bribes storm grows

REBECCA FOWLER

Peter Davis, the head of the National Lottery watchdog, threatened legal action against Richard Branson yesterday in the growing row over allegations of an attempted bribe in the bidding for the lottery.

The dispute erupted after Mr Branson alleged in a Panorama programme last night that the boss of a US company with a stake in the National Lowery operator, Camelot, offered him a bribe to pull out of the race to run the lottery. He said he had told Mir Davis about the true; any suggestion Mr Bran-allered bribery attempt. alleged bribery attempt. son mentioned the allegation to Mr Davis, director-general of Mr Davis, and he ignored such

lleged meeting in September 1993 between Mr Branson, chairman of the Virgin group, and Guy Snowden, chairman of Glech, the American Lottery equipment company that has a 5 per cent stake in Camelot.

Mr Branson claims he was offered the inducement to withdraw from the bidding process after it was revealed his own bid would be non-profit-making. Offict issued a statement yesterday, before last night's Panorama hroadcast, saying: "Mr Branson's statement is un-

Oflot, denied he was told of the an allegation of impropriety, impugns the integrity of the di-rector-general, "Oflot said. "Accordingly Oflot is consulting legal advisors." GTech is also considering legal action. Mr Snowden has sent a let-

ter to Mr Davis demanding an emergency enquiry. But a spokesman for Mr Branson said he would welcome a legal challenge. He said Mr

Branson was considering legal action against GTech for suggesting he was lying: "This meeting was the main thing that tipped Richard's decision to put together a charitable consortium for the bid; he felt so strongly about it.

action from GTech, and we would look forward to taking

The allegations have been denied by Camelot, which is making profits of £1m a week from the National Lottery. Mr Davis repeated his denial of knowledge about the allega-tions yesterday to the Public

them to court."

Accounts Committee, a Government body, at a meeting at the House of Commons. Panorama also said last night GTech is the subject of FBI investigations concerning alleged bribes paid to officials in California, Kentucky and New Jer-

New jail sentences for knife offences

Offenders eaught carrying knives will face three month jail sentences and larger fines, under tougher sentences revealed in a confidential Home Office letter obtained by the Independent, writes Jason Bennetto.

The stiffer penalties are expected to be included in a forthcoming White Paper on sentencing and come after the murder of headmaster Philip Lawrence, who was stabbed to death outside his school in London.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, wants to increase the current law on carrying "an sey with state lottery contracts. I article with a hlade or point in

a public place," which carries a maximum fine of £1,000. Under the proposals, which

have the hacking of police chiefs, prison sentences of up to three month and maximum fines of £2,400 are to be introduced for knife carrying offences.

Pupils returned to S George's school, in Maida Vale, north-west London vesterday for the first day since the fatal stahbing on Friday. Cardinal Basil Hume conducted mass at the Roman Catholic school and counsellers helped children cope with their grief.

Stiffer penalties, page 4

IN BRIEF

Pearson shake-up

Pearson, the media conglomerate, is expected to announce a radical boardmom shake-up that could be a prejude to making Tv mogul Greg Dyke, its new chief executive. Page 20

Whale case ruling A British journalist who exposed the electrocution of Antarctic

minke whales is likely to lose a £250,000 court case. Page Better by degrees

Graduates are challenging the

workaholic lifestyle of their

predecessors as their job

Page 8

How I surfed my way into holy Religious Affairs ..

Correspondent

The Universal Life Church of Modesto, California, is an undemanding religion. It will ordain "anyone that asks, without question of faith, for life, and without fee." It will even do so over the Internet, which is how I found myself yesterday afternoon legally hoensed to conduct baptisms, funerals and wed-

dings in the state of California. The secret to the Church's growth - it claims 14 million ministers around the world - is

of its licensing process: it took me five minutes from first dialling into the Internet to the moment when my certificate of

ordination whispered out of a laser printer. There is also a gratifying doctrinal laxity. "Inbelievers must be free to practise their faith in whatever manner they believe necessary, commensurate with their not violating the same freedom of others" according to the statement of my new internet beliefs. The Universal Life Church,

mother church building, in Modesto, only seats 200. But this hardly matters when they have the whole of the World Wide Web to run around. A fulltime staff of six (all ordained) can thus ignore the bitterly dividual Christians and other contested market of spiritual seekers who are looking for someone to follow. Instead, the Universal Life Church can

to be spiritual leaders. All this is not entirely idealistic. Ministers of religion are af-forded respect in the US and the claims to have members of perks can be worth having.

exploit the longing in all of us

every religion in its ranks. The One Roman Catholic diocese has run a campaign to recruit priests on the slogan "Eat free in Italian restaurants for life".

My ordination material explained that "Ministers are entitled to many discounts from retail agencies and various other trade entities and services. Among these are discounts on huses, trains, air travel, department store discounts, food discounts, retail and restaurant chains," Perhaps most useful are discounts at amusement parks. "The minister may obtain discounts on his own. REMEM-BER, ask and they may grant it."

sions. You don't need to be on the net to obtain these delights. US readers may call a toll-free number, or even use the post. If I send the mother church \$35 I can register my own congregation and start ordaining everyone in the newsroom without Internet access





prospects improve.

Indians kill leader of kidnap group

New Delhi

In a possible hreakthrough in the Kashmiri hostage saga, the Indian army has killed the hardline leader of the rebel group that has been holding two Britons, a German and an American hostage for more than five months

In a communique issued yesterday in Srinagar, capital of the disputed state of Kashmir, the rebel group al-Faran acknowledged that Abdul Hamid al-Turki, its commander-in-chief, died on Monday week in a gun bat- the Indian security forces to tle with Indian troops. Official

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

David Howell, the fiftieth Tory

to announce his intention of

quitting at the next general

election, yesterday accused the

Government of going off the

rails" over foreign policy and

becoming "obsessive" about

chairman of the party's One Na-

tion group of centre-ground MPs, declared that Britain was

"too husy running after the

French and Germans, and be-

ing terrified they are going to

pull some trick and we are go-

24 hours after the fervently

pro-European former prime

minister, Sir Edward Heath,

pledged to support a future Labour government in Com-

mons votes if it was "doing the

Guildford since 1966, a former

chairman of the Commons For-

eign Affairs Select Committee, vesterday insisted bls

decisioo to quit was not another chapter in the trend of disil-

lusionment felt by most

am standing down is that I

have done it for 30 years. It is

time I went to new pastures and

ed elder voices will none the less

fuel Mr Major's anxieties over

the scale of the planned exodus

of senior Tories. For this stage

of a parliament, an unprece-

dented number of MPs have

said they will not stand again.

One minister admitted yes-

Conservative Party's most trust- eye off the ball, he said.

to have a new MP." he said.

The short answer to why I

departing Tories.

Mr Howell's criticism came

ing to be left behind".

right thing" on Europe.

Mr Howell, a senior Tory and

Political Correspondent

rails' says

quitting MP

stituents," Mr Howell said.

some of it was coming back.

have felt in recent years that for-

sources described al-Turki as might endanger the captives' "hard core" and "the least flex-lives. This promise is still in ible" of the al-Faran guerrilla

Al-Faran said that after the shoot-out, the army had "arrested" three of the Western hostages while the fourth had gorically denied by the Indian vernment spokesman, Ram Mohan Rao. "It's absolutely false. The bostages were nowhere near the operation carried out by the army," he

said. Western diplomats had earlier secured a promise from The hostages were said to be in good shape but guarded by at least 16 gunmen. A month

tor to care for the four, one of force, government officials said. whom was said to be suffering The rebel claim that they had from severe frostbite after being forced to march through

"lost" the bostages to the Indians - and the Indian denials led to fears that they might have The death of al-Turki is a hard been harmed in retaliation for blow to the Kashmir rebels, ofal-Turki's death. But police official sources said in New ficials say the four fair-skinned Delhi. Three other rebels, hostages, disguised in Kash-miri robes, were spotted by vilwounded and captured in the same battle, told army interlagers on Sunday not far from Ananinag, a town in southern rogators that the surviving kidnappers were tired and anxious. Kashmir, several days after the Now they have no commander. firefight in which al-Turki died.

"The militants said there was a possibility that the abductors might either ahandon the hostages or hand them over to

ago, al-Faran abducted a doc-tor to care for the four, one of would release them," an official said. India accuses Pakistan of covertly aiding al-Faran and other Kashmiri rebel factions.

Indian officials said that on 4 December the al-Faran chief and seven of his men had left the hostages under guard several kilometres away, near an abandoned tourist resort at Kokamag, to come down the mountains, either for supplies or to link up with other rebels, when they were ambushed by an army patrol. "The hostages were nowhere near," Mr Rao

Al-Paran's claims yesterday

that at least three of the Westerners were being secretly held in custody by the Indian army has left many observers baffled. "We don't know if there's any-The four were trekking in the

thing substantive that has happened after the death of al-Turki or whether it's just both sides -the Indians and al-Faran jostling for position," one ob-

on the spot

by privatisation

Inexplicably, al-Faran re-leased a second contradictory communiqué yesterday in which it renewed its death threat against the hostages. The group is demanding that India free 15 jailed Kashmiri militants in exchange for two Britons, Paul

try could justifiably feel that yesterday's announcement, that no more nuclear power plants will be built for the foreseeable future, amounts to a gizut slap in the face. After all, it was the

nation's nuclear power stations

which helped keep the lights on

during the coal strike of 1984

when, to Margaret Thatcher's delight, a 20th-century fuel

compensated for the lack of one

Yet yesterday's decision could propel Britain backwards.

and have a profound effect on

the economy in the 21st centu-

ry. The country will have to rely on imported gas and oil, while jobs that would have been cre-

ated by building power plants will never materialise. Expertise

in the nuclear industry will be

lost to other countries. And a

greater reliance oo fossil fuels

will create problems in meeting

international obligations to re-

duce emissions of carbon diox-

ide, which causes global

Nuclear power presently pro-

from the 19th.

Wells and Keith Mangan, along with American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert.

Himalayas last summer when they were kidnapped by al-Faran, one of many armed Muslim separatist groups leading an uprising against Indian rule in the Himalayan state. More than 20,000 people have been killed since the revolt flared six years ago.

"The kidnappers are trying one last attempt to get their men freed," an Indian official said, "but we think it's encouraging that the al-Faran are clearly trying to keep the hostages alive.

Judges to rule on rail sell-off

ischoo

Three Appeal Court judges could stop the progress of pas-senger rail privatisation today when they rule on a case brought by the Save Our Railways campaign which could force the Government to start the whole process again.

But if the campaigners, who allege that proposed cuts to service were unlawful, fail, Roger Salmon, the franchising director will announce later today that Stagecoach, Britain's biggest bus company, has won one of the first two franchises to be let, South West Trains, and also that London, Tilbury and Southend, has gone to a management buy-out team.

Guppy rearrested

Darius Guppy, freed on bail last Darius Guppy, freed on ball last Thursday, was rearrested after a High Court judge in London revoked his ball. Guppy, 30, who served five years for a bogus gems robbery, will remain in custody pending a 19 December hearing of his appeal against an extra three years in jail for failing to pay compensation to Lloyd's insurers. An industry put

Blow to galleries

Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland National Gatteries of Scotland, launched a stinging attack on a "scandalous" cut by the Scotlish Office to the galleries grant for next year. The 1996-7 grant is to be £660,000, as opposed to the 1995-6 figure of £1,318,000, which was a cut from the previous year's grant of £1.8m. Mr Clifford, who helped bring Canova's Three Graces to Scotland, said: "We were a national gallery in a capital city but now our hudget is not even in the range of a provincial city."

Brent Spar report

Shell's redundant Brent Spar oil platform contained no significant quantities of toxic, longlasting PCB chemicals, according to a fresh report from the international safety body, Det Norske Veritas. An earlier DNV report said there could be up to 8kg on board in dozens of light fittings.

Quinlivan and Pearse Mo-

Britton prison in south London.

month after completing jail

terms for firearms offences.

Lawyers for the two men said

Prince's car sold

The Prince of Wales's 1987 As-

ton Martin Vantage-Volant

sports car was sold by Christie's

for £111,500 to a private British

collector at an auction at the

RAF Museum in Hendon,

north London. The moocy will go to the Prince's Charity Trust.

The teddy bear that accompa-

nied former speed champion

Donald Campbell on his suc-

cessful world record-breaking

attempts on land and water

failed to meet its estimate.

Tory MP's trial set

"What sort of people will be attracted to the industry now?" IRA extradition A Dublin court ordered the extradition to Britain of Nessan mg people are going to go Canley, IRA escapers from

vides 28.8 per cent of the country's electricity. It is generated by 16 power plants, four of them like Japan and Koyea. They are berstand, employing 1907 investing in hudest energy. They ed by 2000 megawatts each day take the long team and to be and a tall stations was in Electricity depay and the Union and a tall stations. They are council, called the Union and the Council called the Council called the design and the country are country and the country and

"throwing in the towel" and predicted that it will prove to be 'disastrous" for the country's The environmental group

Greenpeace welcomed the deradioactive shells became clear. cision and claimed - almost cer-Even so, within the public sectainly correctly - that it tor, it could justify its existence signalled the end of the nuclear as a reliable, indigenous source industry.

tively doomed by the privatisation of the electricity industry in the 1980s. The idea of splitting the industry into "generators" (in the form of Powergen and National Power) and "buyers' (in the form of the National Grid), trading in a "spot market" where the price of power

true costs of building and then

decommissioning the plants'

of power.

fluctuated from hour to hour, left nuclear power fiailing help-lessly in their wake. While the price of gas and oil falls and rises as new reserves are found, or trading embargos imposed, nu-clear power stations run for 40

barely changes. But in a commercial spot market for energy, nobody gives 40-year contracts.

years, using fuel whose cost

Yesterday Dr Robert Hawley, British Energy's chief executive, said: "At present the future of UK energy prices is insuffi-ciently certain for British Energy to invest in new nuclear or indeed in any other form of new neration in the short term."

asks Professor Ian Fells, an energy expert from the Universi-ty of Newcastle. "All the bright mto something else.

Outliven, of Limerick, and McCalley of Co Tyrone in Northern Ireland, both 30 and winked for the 1991; escape and British based terrorism, they would be appealing in the Irish High Court.

Hopes for nuclear power "too cheap to meter", as promised by newspaper head-lines of the 1950s, fell when the long-term energy needs.

The problem for Greenpeace But the industry was effect and other environmental

groups may early in the next century as prices of gas and oil imported from Norway and Russia is hiked. Then it will be the time for some hard thinking. Yesterday that did oot seem to be in evidence.

Charles Arthur

Garda memo lands reporter in court

A Dublin journalist who uncovered a confidential garda memo showing detectives knew in advance of plans to carry out Ireland's biggest ever robbery last January yesterday appeared before Dublin District Court charged with breaching Ire-

land's Official Secrets Act. Liz Allen, a freelance crime reporter, wrote two reports in the *Irish Independent* last January which revealed a memo had been sent to garda stations alerting officers to named sus-pects in an anticipated armed

raid on a cash-in-transit target. The memo was sent several days before the robbery at the Brinks-Allied depot in Clon-shaugh, north Dublin.

Judge David Riordan, pre-siding, heard Garda witnesses testify that nine copies of the intelligence report were sent on 22 January to stations in the Dublin north central division.

It and six photographs appeared in the newspaper on 27 Janu-ary under the front page head-line *13m robbery fiasco: gardai were alerted."

After a garda investigation only seven of the copies were later recovered from local stations. Gardai visited the newspaper on two occasions in the immediate aftermath but failed to recover the document.

Mr Kevin Haugh, SC, pros-ecuting, said the memo was clearly covered under the terms of the Act because it contained "criminal intelligence of a secret and confidential sort". The publishers, Independent

Newspapers, who are also defendents, could not have had legal possession of the document because the company was not a public body. The hearing was adjourned until Friday, when a number if Irish TD's (MPs) will be called to give evidence.

Former Tory minister Sir Nicholas Scott pleaded not guilty in his absence to driving with excess alcohol, failing to stop after an accident and driving without due care and at-tention during a hearing before magistrates in London. The trial date was set for 26 January.

after lear

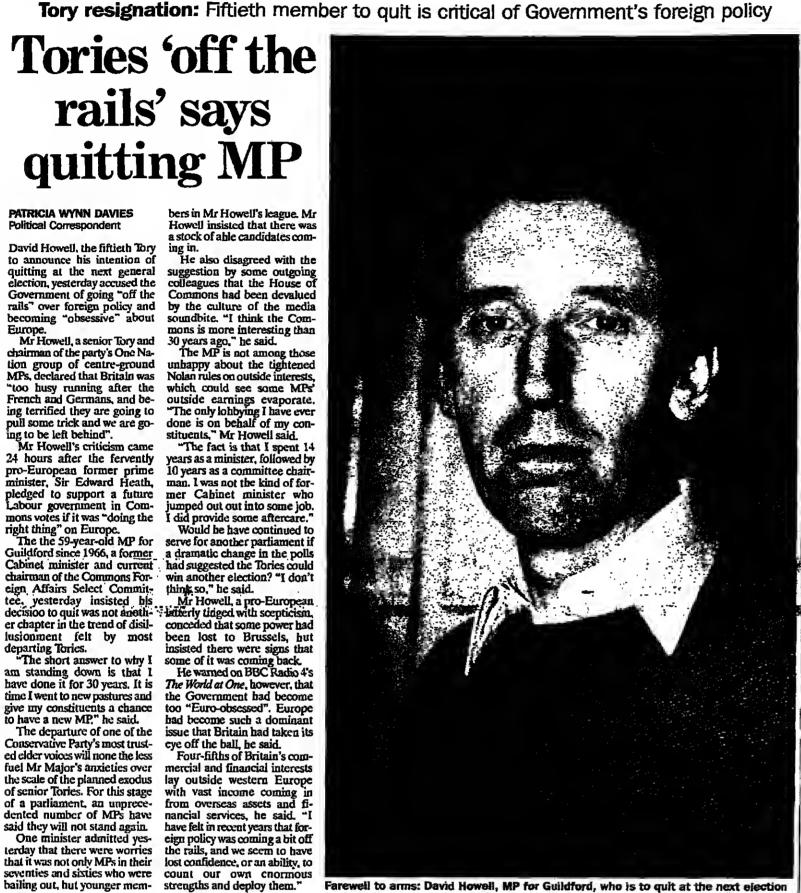
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Farewell to arms: David Howell, MP for Guildford, who is to guit at the next election

Mawhinney is left to face the fire

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, yesterday left Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, to face the fire over the leaking of the contents of a draft speech by Lord Mackay of Clashfern.

Mr Heseltine told MPs Mr Mawhinney could answer the criticism, as Labour stepped up its demands for an inquiry into allegations of civil servants be-

the Lord Chancellor.

ing used by the Tory party.
Sources close to Mr Heseltine
said be was determined to go on to the offensive against Labour, to avoid becoming bogged down in the briefing last week by a member of Mr Mawhinney's staff which opened the Tory party chairman to attack.

"A mistake was made, there is no getting away from that, but he made it clear that he was not going to dwell on it. The aim is



On offensive: Michael Heseltine and Brian Mawhinney

to shake Labour up, and ruffle their feathers," said one minis-terial source. "We are not going to give up now, just because it has got a bit rough." Mr Heseltine chaired the

Cahinet committee coordinating the Government's publicity



Street, but the Tories' attempt

to counter the appeal of Tony Blair increased the tensions in the Government.

Responding to Labour taunts in the Commons about the use of civil servants. Mr Heseltine warned that Mr Blair would promotion at Downing politicise the position of the by appointing a party political "spin doctor", Alastair Camphell to the post, if Labour won Labour sources confirmed

Mr Campbell, a former journalist and Labour supporter, was in line for the post, if Labour won the next general election. He will be seconded into the post as a civil servant. But the row threatened to embroil the Prime Minister's press

secretary, Christopher Meyer, Mr Meyer, a career diplomat, privately made it clear that he had no intention of breaking the code of keeping out of party po-litical propaganda which be adopted on taking up the post. But the difficulty of his neutral position was underlined by Mr Heseltine's remarks. Most ministers, including the Prime Minister, have special advisers from the party network, on short contracts as civil servants. Labour sources privately ad-

light, and refusing to engage in party political propaganda. He has had John Major's absolute support in maintaining his integrity as a civil servant. But as the fight between the two parties gets more dirty, Mr Meyer's position could become more uncomfortable. Senior Conservative Party

clear advantage in appointing a

party supporter to the Number

10 role, because it would allow party presentation to be mixed

with official hriefings on Gov-

ernment husiness to the press.

line between presenting the

Government's case in the best

Mr Meyer has drawn a clear

sources said last night there were "no plans" to change the role of the Number 10 press office. "Labour is accusing us of using civil servants, which we deny. We are pointing out that Labour would politicise the Prime Minister's office. We have oo in-tention of doing that."

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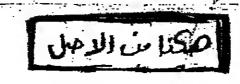
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Albert Speer, His Barde with Truth, Gitta Sereny, Macmillan: hardback, rrp £25.00 now only £19.99. The Railway Man, Eric Lomax, Jonathan Cape; hardback, rrp £15.99 now only £11.99. Offers that speak volumes about Christmas at Waterstooe's.



Schoolgirl's killer 'had dark alter ego'

A schoolgirl who died after be- with their eyes closed. He then came to an end when the ing stabbed by a masked man who burst into her classroom during a maths lesson was a victim of the intruder's dark alter tim of the intruder's dark alter Nikki, of Ridley Avenue, ego, Leeds Crown Court was Middlesbrough, died almost in-

Nikki Conroy, aged 12, and two classmates were stabbed repeatedly after Stephen Wilkinson launched his attack at Hall Garth school, Middlesbrough, in March last vear.

Wilkinson ordered teacher Graham Nellist out at gunpoint, barricaded the door and ordered the children to kneel plunged a knife into Nikki and attacked Michelle Reeve, 13, and Emma Winter, 12.

stantly but Michelle and Emma were not seriously wounded. David Robson, for the pros-

ecution, said Wilkinson claimed "the person that was actually doing it was not S J Wilkinson but the dark side of his own nature, who he has always described as Wilson Jinks". Wilson Jinks is an anagram of S J Wilkinson. Wilkinson's violent outburst deputy head, Chris Bielby, and a teacher, Dave Eland, hurst in and overpowered him, holding him down until police arrived.

Wilkinson, 30, of Caversham Road, Middlesbrough, denies murder but admits manslaughter on the grounds of dimin-ished responsibility. He also admits the attempted murder of Michelle and Emma.

Mr Robson said Wilkinson told police he could recollect nothing about the attack. But he later had flashbacks and told psychiatrists he had been

The jury was told in a statement from Emma that just before the stabbing she heard Wilkinson say: "You are going to pay for what you have done to me." She closed her eyes and

The rest of the school was alerted when Mr Nellist, after being forced out of the class, shouled: "There's a nutter upstairs with a gun and be's got the kids." The teachers thought they would be putting the chil-

felt what she thought were

punches. In fact, she was being

dren's lives at risk if they charged into the classroom. but they were forced to act when Wilkinson launched his attack. Mr Eland and Mr Bielly burst through the door and grappled with Wilkinson before disarming him and pinning him down. The gun was later found

to be a replica. Mr Eland said that as he was being held. Wilkinson muttered: "Give me the knife and let me finish it." Mr Eland added: "I presumed this was his way of saying he wanted to com-

told that, as well as two knives attack came from a six-page and the replica gun used in the attack, another knife and a small are were found in a holdall Wilkinson had with him. The jury was warned to con-

sider the "deeply sad tale" in a "cool, calm and detached way". Referring to the stabbing of London headmaster Philip Lawrence. Mr Robson added: In the light of the dreadful events over the weekend, there is a danger of emotion taking over. That you must not do.

document found in his holdall. In what he described as "Thoughts/Confessions" dated January 1994, two months before he stormed into the classroom, he referred chillingly to the effect his Wilson Jinks alter-ego was having on him. He wrote "Wilson Jinks

wants to destroy me. If I let him

gain ascendance, he will also slaughter the lambs. Earlier he stated: "This confession may read like that of a lunatic but I can assure you that An insight into the thoughts I am quite sane. In truth I wish



only to convey to the world my absolute hatred of it. In doing so I shall steal the lives of society's weakest members; those most vulnerable and those most treasured.

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The trial continues today.

Love, death, Pollyanna Peate and the secret passion of the Frodsham silver band

stahbed.





in the back of the car together. Mrs Phillips's embarrassment.

him and walked the mile or so thinking of ending their relaback to Frodsham where she tionship and during her interview Peate herself said Phillips Ms Peate had claimed they had told him they were having had discussed what to do if he ever collapsed in such circum-

sexual intercourse he had sim- in her explanation could ac-

sex "for the last time". "It looks very much as if he had chosen this fateful night to tell her that their relationship

But Mr Hughes said nothing

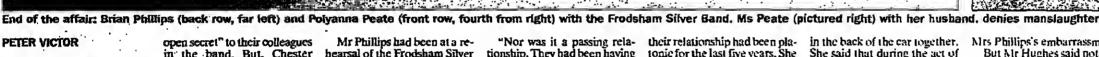
count for the injuries Mr

Phillips had received. There

was evidence that he had been

was over," said Mr Hughes, He said Mr Phillips, a blacksmith at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port car plant, had suffered a serious heart attack in 1972. It was not the possecution case that she intended to kill him but that in law, if you assault and injure someone particularly susceptible to serious injury, you cannot escape responsibility.

Ms Peate, of Runcorn, Cheshire, denies manslaughter. The case continues today,



An elderly village band trom-bonist was killed by his young lover and fellow band member during a final night of passion at the end of a ten-year affair,

a court heard yesterday. Brian Phillips, a 62-year-old grandfather, had a heart attack after mother-of-two Pollyanna Peate, 34, punched him at least four times when he tried to end

in the band. But, Chester Crown Court was told, Ms Peate had claimed Mr Phillips died while making love.
Police found Mr Phillips

dead in his car in Hares Lane, on the marshes near Prodsham. Cheshire, early on 16 November 1994. Mr. Mervyn Hughes, prosecuting, said the dead man had head injuries consistent with being hit with moderate hearsal of the Frodsham Silver Band and had left with fellow musician Mrs Peate, then aged 33, at 9.30pm. "To the members of the band and possibly others, their relationship was an open secret," said Mr Hughes. Members of the band were well aware, it seems, that despite a difference of something like 30 years in their ages, Mr Phillips and Mrs Peate were

conducting an affair together.

tionship. They had been having the affair for something in the region of 10 years. Although those in the hand knew of it they had both successfully concealed the fact from their respective partners, who knew nothing of their relationship. Mr Hughes said Ms Peate

gave the police a detailed account of their movements that Tuesday evening, making no secret of the affair, but claiming

their relationship had been platonic for the last five years. She said they had sat for an hour talking together and Phillips had then driven her home.

Police arrested her on suspicion of manslaughter. When interviewed by detectives, she hegan to change her story. eventually admitting they had regularly been having sex near the spot where the car was

"That night they had both got

from Tee-Gee, enclosing her P45. Miss Coe, who is now in remission from the disease, said the company had not said anything previously about her leav-The assurance was there that I would be returning to work," she said. "I was told my sick note was not a problem." But she did notice that her

Science fact follows fiction in 2001 space odysseys

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Correspondent

Arthur C Clarke, author of 2001: A Space Odyssey, looked happy and relaxed yesterday in Sri Lanka as another of his predictions came true ahead of schedule. The first contact between the human race and the planet Jupiter - the tale he told in 2001 - took place last week. and the first data from the Galileo probe was received at the weekend.

She said that during the act of

ply collapsed and died. She

had tried to revive him but, hav-

ing failed to do so, she dressed

stances and had agreed that she

should leave the scene to spare

caught a taxi home.

But Mr Clarke, 77, told an audience in London - via another of his early predictions, the telecommunications satellite - that he is increasingly concerned that manned spaceflight will become dangerous. The reason for his fears is not malicious aliens, but the prolifer-

ation of man-made satellites. "I'm worried about the astronauts on the Shuttle having to pick their way through orbiting minefields." he said.

In recent years, scientists have identified "space junk" including a screwdriver dropped hy an astronaut - as one of the biggest hazards in space. Even a tiny particle travels at thousands of miles per hour, gaining enough energy to punch a hole in a spacecraft's hull.

Besides being Britain's most famous science-fiction writer. Mr Clarke also enjoys a reputation for being right. Patrick Moore, the astronomer, recalled a debate he once had with Mr Clarke, saving: "I said I thought man would walk on the moon in about 1990; he said it would be more like 1970." Neil Armstrong took his first "small

step there in 1969. For the future. Mr Clarke foresees the collapse of the nation state. He added that his biggest fears for the world stem from the threat of nuclear war. and the twin effects of overpopulation and disease.

Snack firm 'sacked accountant after learning she had cancer'

ter she was diagnosed as having cancer while pregnant, an industrial tribunal was told today.

Carole Coe, 30, had to undergo painful chemotherapy trealment and a hysterectomy. after giving birth to her daughter Sarah last year. She told her employers at a snack-food firm that she would be able to return. to work in May 1995. Instead, she was dismissed, the Manchester hearing was told. Miss Coe, of Hyde, Greater

Manchester, is claiming sex discrimmation against the Leedsbased Tee-Gee Snacks, which saying that she was no longer employs 200 people at two invited to planning meetings.

than £180,000 compensation five years' salary plus more than £80,000 in life assurance benefits which she has lost.

On 6 April 1994 her doctor told her she was pregnant. The baby was due in December, and Miss Coe handed a pregnancy certificate to Tec Gee's personnel manager, Tony Bass. Later, she took two weeks' sick leave because of a threatened miscarriage. When I returned in June 1994, I felt they were trying to ... undermine my position," she told the tribunal,

July as her pregnancy progressed. On 19 August she was told she had cancer. The company's finance director, Richard Fullwell .visited her, and she told him she was entitled to mater-

nity leave until January 1995. "He said he had heard a rumour 1 was willing to go for £20,000 [her annual salary]." Miss Coe said. She replied that this was not true, and that she wanted to continue [working] after the baby was born. Sarah was born prematurely

in October 1994. The following month Miss Coe left hospital after a hysterectomy in a "great

Miss Coe left the company in deal of pain. At the end of November she started "particularly rough chemotherapy. She had explained the situation to her employers who

seemed happy that she should return to work in May 1995. A short time later Mr Bass rang her. "He told me that due to the life insurance policy with the company's occupational pension scheme, the company had an interest in my estate and that I should make a will in case the treatment did not work," she said. "I was shocked... but said t would think about it."

When she returned home. she received a dismissal letter



desk had gone from her office.



Aftermath of a stabbing: Killing of headmaster prompts Home Office to introduce legislation as police step up the hunt

Knife offenders face tougher new laws

JAMES CUSICK **QOUL HTIGUL bns**

Prison sentences of up to three months and fines of £2,400 are to he introduced for knife carrying offeoces, according to a confidential Home Office letter obtained by the Independent.

The tougher laws, which are understood to include making the possession of a knife an arrestable offence, follow the murder of the headmaster Philip Lawrence.

It also emerged yesterday that detectives investigating the murder of Mr Lawrence, 48, outside St George's Roman Catholic secondary school, in Maida Vale, north-west London, are targeting a small group

A letter from the Home Office revealed the Government wants to include stiffer penalties for knife carriers in their forthcoming White Paper oo seotencing. At present the maximum sentence for unlawful possession of an offensive weapon is two years' imprisoo-ment or an unlimited fine. But many cases are dealt with un-der a different Act which is easier to gain a conviction but only has a maximum £1,000 fine for

carrying "an article with a hlade or point in a public place". A Home Office tetter to David Blackey, secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' crime committee, and Chief Constable of West Mercia, reveals that the Home Sec-

grieving pupils faced a day of like the lesser sentence in-prayer and counselling. creased to a maximum of three creased to a maximum of three months jail or a fine of £2,400.

It also discloses plans to make the possession of a knife an arrestable offence. Currently the police have to rely on laws which allow officers to only arrest people if they have "reasonable grounds" for suspected an offence is being committed. An ACPO spokesman said

the police would welcome tougher sentences against people who unlawfully carry knifes. The Prime Minister was yes-

terday said to be "appalled and shocked" by the killing of Mr Lawrence as it emerged that Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, will hold a meeting of all six teacher unions later this week to discuss measures which could be introduced to protect teachers

and pupils from attack. Yester-day, she met representatives of the Secondary Heads Association who discussed the general topic of tighter controls on offensive.

John Sutton, the associatioo's geoeral secretary, said they had talked about knives and baseball bats and the prevalence of weapons in schools. There have always been weapons in schools. What is new

is the propensity to use them."
Police involved in the Lawrence murder investigation believe that a gang dispute was the most likely cause of his death. Yesterday, detectives were requestioning the small group of pupils believed to have seen the attempts by the headmaster to help the 13year-old pupil at St George's apparently being attacked.



Emotional view: Pupils at St George's school yesterday where lessons were abandoned in favour of a special ma

BARCLAYS

THE VALUE OF SHARES AND THE INCOME FROM THEM CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP, YOU MAY NOT GET BACK THE AMOUNT YOU INVESTED. THE BASIS OF TAXATION MAY CHANGE IN THE FUTURE.



Pupils try to make sense of hardest lesson

There were no easy lessons at St George's School yesterday. On the first day hack in the classroom since their head-master was stabbed, pupils were guided by 30 counsellors in what may turn out to be ooe of the hardest lessons of their

The counsellors - 20 from Westminster council's social services department, and 10 from the Catholic Children's Society - helped classes through-out the school to express their grief, sense of loss, and worry Outside school later, pupils

old how the counselling sessions, involving writing letters or cards to Philip Lawrence's family, had helped them. One first-former said: "I wrote to Mr Lawrence's family. I told them I was sad. I told them it should never have happened. I told them not to feel

terrible for too long. And I told

them not to worry." The writing therapy - a commonly used psychological technique in situations of severe grief - was carefully super-

Many pupils described how some of their friends had "quietly cried" as they tried to express their innermost feelings.

The counselling sessions were only one part of the "spe-cial programme" the school governors and staff had prepared for yesterday. The focus was a special mass conducted by the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume.

After the mass, he said: "I told the children that it was very important to come today so we prayed together and prayed for Philip Lawrence and share our sorrow."

Praising Mr Lawrence's con-cern for his pupils and his bravery, Cardinal Hume said: "I reminded pupils of the [New Testament text No greater love hath a person than to lay down his or her life for a friend. That is what Philip Lawrence did. This was a headmaster who was a friend to all his

Although Cardinal Hume in sisted that "the person who has done this terrible act should be caught and punished", he added: "We have to learn to forto learn to forgive'

Counsellors help school to cope with grief, reports **James Cusick**

give. That is the hardest thing." During his sermon at the special mass, the Archhishop told pupils he had a message for the murderer. "My advice to him is to report to police at once. He needs to acknowledge his crime and pay his deht to society.

Oo their way into school for the start of the day there was a distinct air of unease as pupils passed the growing shrine of flowers that had huilt up over the weekend.

Asked by the assembled ranks of newspaper reporters and television crews how they felt, one word was often repeared: "Sad".

James, a first-former, said: "This is such a sad day. Mr Lawrence tried to push us and help us. He dido't deserve to die, not like that.'

By the end of the day, after a lunch break of what appeared to be oormal play and noise from the school playground, pupils tried to express what the special day had meant to them Nicholas, ignoring the efforts of teachers and staff to

move him away from television crews and reporters, insisted on "It was a hard day. I can't remember everything that happened. I wrote some cards and said some prayers. All we know

is that this should oever have



Glasgow knife crime success

Scotland Correspondent

Senior police officers examining ways to combat stabbings are

turning their attention to Glasgow which has pioneered a highly successful knife crime prevention scheme. In a city notorious for razor

gangs and underworld violence, knife-related crime rose sharply three years ago. The number of knife murders and attempted murders more than doubled in 1992, with four people being stabbed on average each day. Detectives responded by introducing Operation Blade, a highprofile campaign supported by local authorities, the retail trade, schools, nightclub

owners and the media. "knife amnesty", urging Glas-wegians to "bin your deadly weapons or be put away yourselves". In the months that followed, 5,000 hlades, including swords and machetes, were

left in "knife banks" at police stations across the city

To back up the amnesty, of ficers mounted a stop-andsearch campaign, searching almost 30,000 young people over four months. Nightclub owners joined the campaign by installing metal detectors and surveillance cameras. Hundreds of weapons were recovered. Backed up by a change in the law, which required those found carrying knives to prove they were for legitimate use, hundreds of prosecutions followed.

Almost 100 retailers agreed to remove knives from display, and detectives lectured schoolchildren on knife crime. The effect was swift and dramatic. By the end of 1993, the number of offences involving the posses-Officers first announced a sion of offensive weapons slumped by almost 25 per cent. Knife-related incidents fell by 37 per cent. Although knife-

londons Mance st

Marie Carlo

il in-CXCmed ing a . the :ions ટામસી a die ssert banlast

The icing on the gate: Despite being e weekend in which many parts of the country were shrouded in mist and fog, the cold weather did have some compensations. At least the Ice made a pretty picture, like this garden gate in Saffron Waldon, Essex



granted extended leave to re-main in Britain. Under the

"fast-track" system proposed by

Mr Howard their successors

would have only a very re-

Mr Howard said there were

three criteria for placing coun-

tries on the list: no serious risk

of persecution, that they gen-

erated significant numbers of

asylum claims, and that a very high proportion proved to be

He cited the case of a group

of Pakistanis who claimed asy

lum because of their member-

ship of the Pakistan People'

Party and appealed against re-fusal - even though the PPP had

since become the government

stricted right of appeal.

ON A SCALE of nought to ten,

ever given it from

Full points or a big fat zero. There's no average mark for our malt. Its unique, uncompromising taste bas always polarised opinions. Some relish its sweet, heathery smokiness. Others will never appreciate its oily medicinal tang, nor savour the strong hint of seaweed. Take a sip, but be ready to take sides.



Howard reveals 'white list' for asylum-seekers

NICHOLAS TIMMINS and HEATHER MILLS

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, yesterday announced his so-called "white list" of countries, whose citizens he persecution and unlikely to eserve asylum in Britain.

Accusations of "playing the race card" were hurled across the Commons as it emerged that thousands of would-be refugees from the seven countries - India, Pakistan, Ghana, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Poland and Romania - will find it still harder to make a case to remain in Britain under procedures to be introduced in the Government's

But during a second reading debate on the Bill, Mr Howard said it was "not immoral" to insist that people from "safe" countries returned to pursue their claims there, our to protect the job opportunities of seekers, plus their dependants, those entitled to live and work will be left penniless by the soin Britain. He claimed that no cial security system. They in-further obstacles were being put clode some 6,000 people who in the way of genuine refugees. "But we must be a haven, not a honey pot," he said.

joined in the controversy sur-rently appealing. rounding the clampdown on refugees by publicly airing their concerns - not only about the . Bill but about plans to withdraw benefits from thousands of asylum-seckers next mooth. The two-pronged attack "appears to introduced three years undermine the spirit" of the failed to deal with it. Geneva Convention on Refugees, they said in a letter Home Secretary, said Labour to the Times. In particular, the would oppose the Bill. The begefit changes - due to come white list rules were "Kafkain on 8 January - meant many esque and placed an "almost im-vulnerable people, including possible burden of proof" on children, could find themselves

Westminster City Council pleaded with the Government to defer the benefit proposals, Pakistan 2,130. Seventy were alleging that the claimed Trea-granted either refugee status or

coldest time of year.

sury savings will simply mean higher costs for local government.

Ministers maintain the move will save £200m a year. But Westminster believes the changes will cost it alone more than £10m a year "on relativegards as facing no serious risk by conservative assumptions" cutting the already stretched budget for children, the elderly and other social services. Other local authorities believe they too will face large bills and some Conservative MPs fear many of the savings will prove

David Shaw, the Tory MP for Dover, a key port of entry, told the Independent he was "very wormed" that the costs would simply shift from social securi-Asylum and Immigration Bill. ty to social services and housing. "We need to make absolutely sure that this is not just a sideways transfer of expenditure and is going to result

in real savings," he said.

An estimated 13,000 asylumhave entered the UK since the policy was announced on 12 October and then sought asylum, Meanwhile, church leaders and some 7,000 who are cur-

in the Commons, opposithe Bill to be sent to special select committee, which could take evidence on the extent of the problem and why legislation introduced three years ago had

Jack Straw, the shadow asylum-seekers. In the nine months to the end of Septemhomeless and penniless at the ber, more than 6,000 applica-The Conservative-controlled tions for asylum were made by people from the three countries: India 2,380, Ghana 1,530, and

London's ethnic balance shifting

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Almost 30 per cent of London's population is set to come from the ethnic minorities in 15 years' time, making London almost certainly the most ethnically diverse capital in the world. Two London boroughs, Brent

in the north-west and Newham in the east, are expected to have ethnic minority populations of more than 50 per cent, according to a new study undertaken by the Loodon Research Centre. Three more, Tower Hamilets. Harrow and Ealing, are projected to be above 40 per With London's school of cent. At present, the propor-tions for Brent and Newham are

45 and 44 per cent. The growth results almost en-tirely from the age structure of the existing population rather than from immigration or higher birth rates, the centre - partially funded by the London. boroughs - said yesterday. The ethnic minority popula-

tion will rise from 20 per cent in 1991 to 28 per cent by 2011, a 40 per cent increase to just un-der 2 million - over half of whom will have been born in Britain. In the same period; London's white population is set to decline by almost 430,000 to 5,064,000.

The findings have important implications for race relations, businesses and services as the growth in ethnic minorities helps to reverse a 45-year decline in the population of the capital. From more than 8.5 million in 1939, it fell to below 6.8 million in the mid-Eighties, but is set to rise to

With London's school children speaking 200 different lan-guages, the capital's diversity can provide "a vital competitive edge in the global markets". Herman Ouseley, chairman o the Commission for Racial Equality, said yesterday. But it also presents a challenge to health and other services as immigrants of the Fifties and Six-ties reach retirement age.

'Breakthrough' drug is on NHS

A drug which offers hope to thousands of people suffering from multiple scierosis is now available on prescription in the United Kingdom

Interferon-beta 1b has been described by doctors in the United States as the "biggest breakthrough in MS for 20 years", although British doctors least in the short term.

are more cautious. mitting form of MS, the drug has been shown to cut the frequency of relapses by up to a third, although it does not cure of halt the disease which is a defew months they may find they generative disorder of the per-

vous system. The drug, to be sold as Betaferon, was at the centre of a row over rationing in the Na-tional Health Service this year, after it was claimed that it would not be available to all patients who were suitable for treatment on the grounds of cost. A month's supply costs £806 to pay for it.

per patient - £9,600 a year - and it may have to be administered over a number of years. There are around 85,000 people in the UK with MS, and up to half are potentially suitable for the drug. The NHS Executive has is-

sued guidelines on the prescribing of the drug and consultant neurologists in hospitals, rather than GPs, are likely to be prime prescribers at

A spokeswoman for Schering However, they accept that in Health Care Ltd, which makes the drug, said vesterday: "Betaferon is expensive, but for some patients it might be emineotly worth it. If people are having frequent relapses, every can't see or can't walk properly. This drug could make a big difference to them."

The drug has been available in the US for two years. A small number of patients in the UK have benefited from it already as it has been available for experimental use, although some health authorities have refused

no half measures.

Abortion case surgeon tells of deep regret

A hospital consultant told a court yesterday that he was wrong to carry out an abortion on a childless woman who did

not realise she was pregnant. Reginald Dixon, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, aborted the II-week-old foetus during a routine hysterectomy. He denies unlawfully procur-

ing a miscarriage during the op-eration in March 1993 on Barbara Whiten, now 38, at the King's Mill Hospital, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire,

Mr Dixon, 58, stopped giving evidence last Thursday after suffering stress. In the witness box yesterday, he said he decided to continue with the operation and so abort the foetus. He said: "I felt I had made a particularly hard and difficult decision and which has turned out to he wrong, which I very much reuation. I continued with the operation with considerable trepidation, I was anxious.

At the time, I believed I was doing the right thing. The easiest thing for me to do would have been to have just taken a look, closed the abdomen and walked away. I was trying to do the best for my patient, but that would have been doing the best

Children see three to four times

more advertising for fatty and

sugary foods than adults and are

being "saturated" with un-

healthy food, a report by the National Food Alliance says. The paper, Easy to Swallow.

Hard to Stomach, found that 7

out of 10 adverts during Chil-dren's ITV are for food com-

pared with only 2 out of 10

during adult programming.

GLENDA COOPER

Mr Dixon said he continued with the surgery because he feared his patient would suffer serious mental problems if the child was allowed to be born. He also feared the foetus might not be healthy, because of the drugs he thought Mrs Whiten was taking to ease her womb condition. which was the reason for the

He said: "I felt, having reviewed the total situation of her ongoing problems and previous history of mental instability, that the best solution for her future mental health was that I continue the operation." He said that her age, which was then 35, was also influential.

"Mrs Whiten told her doctor that she never wanted a pregnancy at any time. I know that many professional women reach a stage in their lives when what they want to do is get on with their careers and not start a family, and that can be very important. Sometimes it is purely financial. In the great majority of patients that I have encountered in circumstances similar to Mrs Whiten's, the patients ask for the operation to

be carried on." Mrs Whiten has told Nottingham Crown Court she des-perately wanted the child. But

Sweet adverts attacked

more than 7 per cent of our diet,

the survey found advertising for

these food made up 44 to 76 per

children hreakfast cereals

(mostly sweetened) and sweets

were the most intensively ad-

vertised food products. Much of

the rest was for soft drinks, fast

foods, ice cream and lollies. Out

of 549 food adverts monitored

only two were for fruit and veg-

etables, although it is recom-

Although government guide-lines for a healthy, balanced diet recommend that fatty and sug-The NFA wants the Govern-

ary foods should account for no ment to support pilot projects

During programming for

cent of all food advertising.

Mr Dixon said yesterday: "I had been hoping for would have been shattered - that is a symptom-free life and the chance to concentrate on her work." He said he tried to contact her husband before completing the operation and discussed it with the anaesthetist, who agreed that surgery should continue.

Mr Dixon told his patient about the operation the following day, when she had recovered from the general anaesthetic. Mrs Whiten said in evidence that he had mentioned the pregnancy only in passing and had left her distressed and confused.

But Mr Dixon denied that and said he had sat on her bed and held her hand as he told her what happened. "I said, 'I am sincerely sorry. I have something to tell you about the operation. I am very much afraid you may have been pregnant.

"She gave me a polite smile and her exact words were 'Don't worry, you did the right thing," said Mr Dixon. He said she was not distressed, and she was not angry when a report from the pathologist later confirmed she

The case continues today.

to investigate how to promote

healthier foods. It should also

tell the Independent Television

Commission not to transmit

adverts for fatty and sugary

foods during children's viewing. The Food Advertising Unit

claimed advertising is far less in-

fluential than family and peers.

Jeffrey Goldstein, Professor of

Psychology at the University of

Utrecht, said restrictions would

have undesirable economic and psycho-social effects. "Children

would be isolated as a social

group... and regarded as in-capable of making their own

Shoplifting crackdown: Stores use device to keep hidden eye on customers

Secret strip brings thieves to book

MARIANNE MACDONALD

Peter Rabbit has been tagged by Dillons bookstores in the first UK trials of a secret device to identify book thieves. It could cut thefts of Beatrix

Potter - a shoplifter's favourite down to nothing, if initial findings are accurate. The system involves inserting thin three-inch magnetic

strip under the spine during the printing process. When the book is bought it is demagnetised at the till so that it does not set off an alarm when removed from the store. The system differs from the

present flawed and timeonsuming process of manually inserting the magnetic strips between the pages – which can be shaken out by shoplifters. In a two-week experiment last

month, the spines of 10 Beat-rix Potter titles, which have always sold well, were fitted with the magnetic tags in their spines and filmed on open display in stores around Britain.

In contrast to previous experience, few of the books were removed - legally or otherwise. Footage from concealed cameras revealed customers rifling randomly through the books, apparently in search of the removable tags. When they could not find them, they left the books alone.

"Some stores don't have equipment to log the movement of books and we've always wondered if they were going out of the door in a customer's bag or a Dillons bag," said Ken Harwood, security director of Dil-lons, from his anonymous London base. "Now we know."

The festive season is the jolliest for shoplifters, but all year round chains such as Dillons culprits defy stereotyping. There's the man who steals A to Zs from one of our London cut-price," says Ray Winter. security operations manager for Dillons. "And there's the guy who advertised on the Internet for students' reading lists. He'd steal the books for them and charge half the cover price." Then there was the "awayday

Eagle eye: A customer is observed innocently browsing

businessman" who stole books from a different city every day and sold them to second-hand bookshops, and the executive and Waterstone's suffer up to who commuted to London 3 per cent shrinkage. The from Leicester to steal books at precisely 11.30 every morning until his wife found out - she

All were captured on film by cameras with lenses the size of a pinhead hidden behind the bookshelves, in the lifts, inside smoke alarms and behind posters inside the busiest Dillons stores.

The one in the lift at the

Gower Street store in central London was particularly effective - catching out a young female executive and a ponytailed middle-aged man with a hidden compartment in his briefcase

The solution could be the was unaware that he had lost his new system of tagging. The problem is persuading the publishers to install the expensive new machinery in their printing

They have little to gain - the shops carry the cost of the thefts, and are forced to order extra copies to replace the hooks that vanish.

Winnie The Pooh books. 3. Golden Sounds — children's books, with buttons which make noises:

4. Illustrated art books Terry Pratchett: Mask New Age books (especie ly in Exeter and Southampton Pevsner's architectur

guides 8. World Atlases 9. Local guides 10. The London A to

UK bestsellers

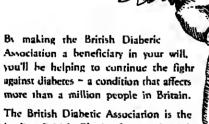
1. Stephen Hawking: A Brief History of Time 2. Edith Holden: The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady 3= Peter Mayle: A Year In Provence

3=: Rosemary Conley: The Complete Hip and Thigh Diet 5 Della Smith: Della Smith's Complete Illustrated Cookery 6 David Attenborough: Life on

7 Delia Smith: Della Smith's Complete Cookery Course Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13

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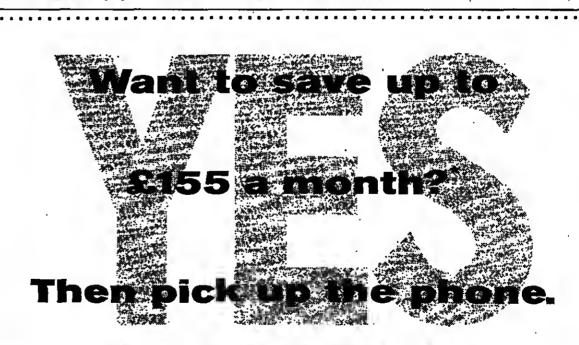
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'Killing waters' journalist sued for £260,000



STEVE BOGGAN Chief Reporter

A British journalist who exposed the electrocution of Antarctic minke whales is likely to lose a £260,000 court case today against the Japanese institute that ordered the deaths for "research".

Mark Votier is being sued by the Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research for releasing footage of the killings to the media in 23 countries.

Mr Votier, 37, who will not contest the action in Tokyo's district court, was privately commissioned to film a whaling expedition in the Antarctic in February 1993. But he was so sickened by what he saw that he decided to release the footage. The institute is suing him for £60,000 and the court is likely to impose £200,000 costs.

Altogether, I watched 30 harpoonings." Mr Votier said yesterday. "In about 50 per cent of cases the whales were immobilised instantly and shackled to the side of the catcher ship for transport to the waiting factory ship.



Mark Votier: Released film slaughter to media

But in the other 50 per cent the whales were only wounded. To immobilise them, they were dragged to the catcher ship and speared with a lance containing a detachable electrode. The gunner then discharged 200 volts of electricity into the animal's body, in most cases causing it to react violently.

The average immobilisation time, on a conservative estimate, is eight minutes. However. I did witness one botched electrocution which took 23 minutes. If I had not released the pictures I could not have lived with the decision."

Mr Votier, who lived in Japan for seven years, said he will ignore the court ruling but may have to take further legal advice if the institute, which is part funded by the Japanese govern-ment, initiates proceedings in Britain. He has been supportcd by the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Japan and Norway continue to be the only nations to ignore consistently appeals by the In-ternational Whaling Commission not to engage in "scientific research" whaling following the world ban on commercial whaling in 1987.

Last year, Japanese fleets killed more than 300 minke whales and the figure for this year is likely to climb to 440. Vassili Papastavrou, an IFAW

marine biologist, said he believed the institute was wrong to sue Mr Votier, "The institute is trying to stifle a hasic human right - free speech." he said, "ti to satisfy statistical best practice.

is another attempt by the Japanese to hide the barbarity of their whaling."

The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society said Nir Votier's actions had advanced the whales' cause and his footage had been used by the British government in talks aimed at reinforcing the whaling moratorium, "The Japanese are unrepentant about the killings but they are having to face up to slowly growing pub-lic opinion at home, so it is a very sensitive issue for them," their spokesman Jonathan Owen said. "This kind of electrocution is simply barbaric. We would argue that the whole exercise is completely unscientific and is just a prejext for them to carry on whaling.

A spokesman for the Agriculture and Fisheries Division of the Japanese Embassy denied that the whaling was unseigntific, "We need to gather scientific data on the age and sex and population of the minke whales in the Antarctic," he said, claiming that around 400 wholes had to he slaughtered

Police brought to book for drug arrest

Home Affairs Correspondent

A "highly respected" commu-nity worker was yesterday awarded £76,000 damages from the Metropolitan Police to settle his damages claim for false imprisonment, assault and malicious prosecution.

Rennie Kingsley, 48, claimed he was assaulted by officers who smashed their way into his house, planted drugs on him and then maliciously pursued him through the courts on false

Latest figures show that Scotland Yard has paid out nearly £1.5m to settle 48 substantial court claims for assault or false imprisonment over the past two years - but has taken disciolinary action against only four officers as a result.

Mr Kingsley served four months in prison before his con-viction for possessing LSD and mated at a further £25,000. cocaine was overturned by the Court of Appeal. The prosecution did not contest Mr Kings-ley's submission that the truthfulness of the police officers' evidence at trial could no

longer he relied upon. Yesterday the High Court was told that a formal complaint on behalf of Mr Kingsley was in-vestigated as part of the "Op-eration Jackpot" inquiry, conducted into allegations of corruption against a number of officers at Stoke Newington

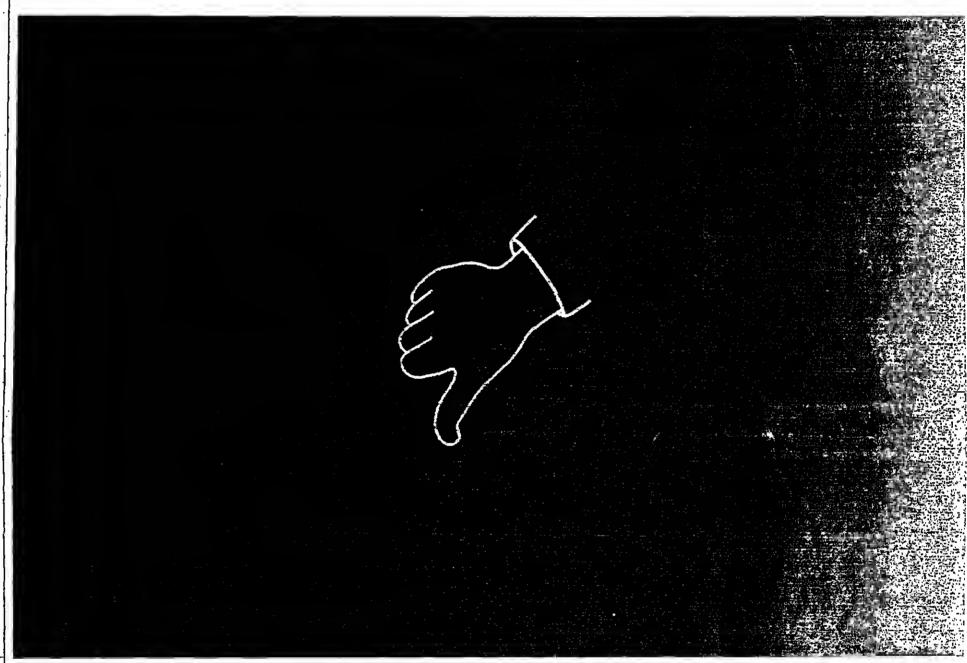
police station, north London. But the Crown Prosecution Service decided that no charges would be brought against offi-cers involved in Mr Kingsley's case and neither were there any disciplinary charges. Russell Miller, Mr Kingsley's solicitor, told the court the only course left open to him in order to pur-

sue his grievances was to sue. The four-year Jackpot inquiry into up to 44 police officers has resulted in only one conviction. Although the individual officers involved in Mr Kingsley's case continued to deny his allegations, the Metropolitan Police did not contest his claims

Mr Kingsley considered that the sum recognised the "injury. pain, shock, distress, anxiety, hnmiliation, degradation and loss of liberty", be claims to have suffered. The police have also

Mr Miller said Mr Kingsley was a man who, for the past 14 years, had worked with local voluntary projects for the home-less. "He has carned respect and standing in the community of which he is a valued member.

He was at an address in east London in August 1990, when police broke down the front door with a sledgehammer. At Stoke Newington police station. on the basis of "concocted and fabricated allegations" he was charged with the drugs offences.



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news

Graduates find job prospects bright again

GOOT HINDO Education Editor

Graduates are challenging the workaholic lifestyle of their predecessors as their job prospects improve rapidly, ac-cording to a survey published yesterday.

Graduate unemployment fell by two perceotage points to 9.7 per cent in 1994, despite a 13 per cent increase in graduate numbers.

The result, say employers, is workaholics of a few years ago are disappearing.
They have been superseded

by more confident interviewees who are telling interviewers that they want jobs compatible with family life.

A survey by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, which examines what happened to graduates six months after they left college, showed that more were securing permanent employment and fewer are having to take

temporary jobs. Nigel Llewellyn, national recruitment partner for the accountants Touche Ross, which sponsored the survey, said: "For the last few years, students felt they could not raise issues of

lifestyle or workstyle. Accountancy applicants felt they had to seem boring and shy. We had to winkle signs of personality out of them. Now lifestyle issues are being talked about quite

According to the survey. graduates in most subjects were finding it easier to get jobs with computing and information technology notching up record employment rates of around 60 per cent.

Employment in both mechanical and civil engineering also increased - and for nonvocational subjects such as English and history.

The improvement took place despite a 22,000 increase in the numbers graduating. In business studies, numbers were up by more than 60 per cent, and in English by 25 per cent. Since 1992, graduate numbers have risen overall by 42.5 per cent.

The rise in business studies raduates was caused by the Eighties boom and is unlikely to be repeated.

Jenny Jones, editor of the re-port, said: "The first tentative signs of a recovery in the job market for graduates, which we began to ideotify in the 1993 figures, have become more confident indicators of a general

improvement in graduates' prospects."

However, competition for the top jobs is as fierce as ever and students need to spend time preparing their applications. Mr Llewellyn said students who had done no research ioto their chosen firm and career stood little chance

A further survey carried ont in 40 old and 28 new universities this autumn by the association confirms more vacancies for graduates, but it found that the pattern was uneven throughout the country. Getting

a job remains hard work.
The survey found that employers were increasingly looking for students on target for upper second class degrees and with good A-levels, or at least a lower second class degree in a vocational course and an impressive personality. For others, the prospect is bleak.

Though the annual "milk round", with employers visiting campuses to interview candidates, is in decline, the number of employers making presentations at universities is growing What Do Graduates Do? Available from Biblios Publishers' Distribution, Star Road, Partridge Green, West Sussex, RH13 8LD. Price £5.95



Key of life: A collection of home computers and keyboards at Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery, part of 'Collectomania - The People's Show', until 17 March. Other collections on display include toast racks, key-rings, tiles and Arsenal Football Club memorabilia Photograph: Edward Webb

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THE FINEST IN THE SKY

Union keeps the faith for TV adverts launch

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Britain's first television advertising campaign on behalf of a union will contain a distinctly "old Labour" message, it was

revealed yesterday.
The 1.3-million-strong public service union Unison, which is expected to become the Labour Party's biggest affiliate oextyear, has chosen the theme of collective strength in an advertisement due to be transmitted for the first time on Friday.

Instead of adopting the "modernist" approach of marketing its legal and contractual advice services. Unison unmistakable message that collectivism is all-important.

The cartoon depicts a large and particularly stupid bear, representing management, who is politely asked to move out of the way by a diligent worker ant. A second ant joins his col-

but to no avail. Keen to complete their task, the two ants will be broadcast at peak times leave to return with an army of on Channel 4 in two tranches colleagues who bellow "get

retary of Unison, said yesterday he was "particularly pleased" with the traditional flavour of the ad because people were in need of pretection at work. the basis of trade unionism -

put it over in a humorous and gentle way."

out of the way" at the ursine obstacle, who leaps for cover.

Alan Jinkinson, general sec-

"The message is simple - it's strength in numbers and the col-

lective good.
"All the membership surveys we have cooducted indicate that an overwhelming number of people, both men and tional reasons. We have tried to around 200,000 people a year as

The £1.2m recruitment campaign, which will begin on Fri-Brookside on Channel 4, could mark the start of an entirely league to ask the bear to move, new approach to union self-

with the first part continuing through Christmas into January. A second phase is planned for April, possibly supplemented by

cinema advertising.
Mr Jinkinson said the union was particularly keen to larget young people doily 9 per cent of Unisoo members we munder 24 - and the timing of the advertisements had been chosen with that in mind. They are scheduled to be seen in commercial breaks during films, football and the American series Frasier.

Unison suffers from a particularly high turnover o members leave through job loss, career change and retirement

The union needed to recruit day during an episode of both new workers and existing employees, and was also keen to raise public awareness of the union, Mr Jinkinson said.





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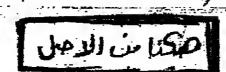
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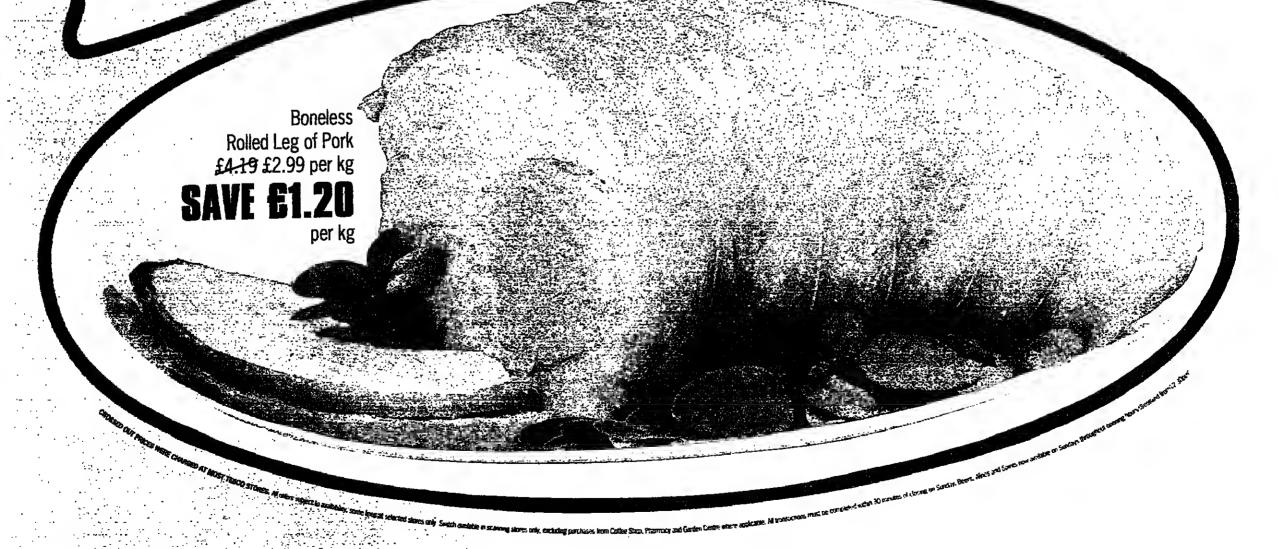
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Main players in

the case

Peter Jepson: A 45-year-old PhD student at

University College, Lon-don, and a part-time ecturer in civil liberties aw, Mr Jepson was once a Liberal Council lor in Oldham. He

joined the Labour Party 16 years ago and this

don seats. The Equal Opportunities Commis sion is giving him limit of £750 for a barrister's legal opinion. Roger Dyas-

Elliott: A 49-year

lam University, with a

adopted as the Labour

candidate for Scarbon-

Doncaster North before

the last election. He is

secretary of Bassetla

parish councillor and

school governor. James Goudie QC: A

the Society of Labour Lawyers He stood for parliament - against

Brent North - in 1974, and was Labour Leader of Brent Council, 1977-78

Rhodes Boyson In

District Labour Party, a

ough, Grantham and

part-time meture

Party policy in the dock: Programme to correct imbalance of the sexes in Parliament is illegal, an industrial tribunal is told

Women-only shortlists put Labour 'above law'

Political Correspondent

The Labour Party was accused yesterday of putting itself above the law, by two men who claim they were illegally discriminated against when they were prevented from hecoming parliamentary candidates.

"The Labour Party is arguing that a political party is above the law, not just of this country but of European law as well. That is an affront," Peter Jepsoo told an industrial tribunal in

Mr Jepson argued that Labour's policy of womeo-only shortlists in half its winnahle seats is in breach of the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act and the 1976 European Equal Treatment Directive.

Mr Jepson, who was barred from standing in two London seats, is representing himself and Roger Dyas-Elliott, who was turned away from the Keighley seat, in Yorkshire.

James Goudie OC, for the Labour Party, described Mr Jepson's charge as a "moostrous distortion" and argued that the members of the tribunal would be "spending a rather uncomfortable time in the Tower of London" if they interfered ith the election of MPs.

Mr Goudie said that being an MP was not employment, hence the Act did not apply and the tribunal had no jurisdiction in the case. "Neither selection as a Parliamentary candidate cor election as an MP is an 'engagement' io a professional

trade," he said.

If the Act covered the selection of candidates by political parties, "it will lead to absurd results which Parliament cannot possibly have intended," he

He quoted Dr Shirley Sum-merskill, a Labour Minister at the time the Sex Discrimination Bill was discussed in the Commons, who told a Conservative MP that political parties fell outside the relevant provision.

In any case, it was the electorate, not the parties, who decided who would be an MP, Mr Goudie said.

Even if the tribunal did not accept the Labour Party's argument in relation to the Act.



Challenge: Peter Jepson (left) and Roger Dyass-Elliott arrive for the start of the tribunal hearing in Leeds yesterday

that "positive actioo" was permitted under EU law and the European Convention on

Mr Jepson disputed that, saying there was a difference betweco positive actioo, which

meaot encouraging and assist-

ing women to put themselves forward, and positive discrimination, which meant banning

The Labour Party brought in the policy of women's quotas at its 1993 conference in Brighton - in the same vote with which John Smith secured "one mem-

ber, one vote" democracy in the selection of candidates. So far, 37 women have been choo from womeo-only lists, and only a handful of seats remain.

Mr Gowdie described the case as "utterly misconceived and an abuse of the process of an industrial tribunal*

Mr Jeoson argues that if his case succeeds, all parties - not just Labour - would be required to comply with the mation Act in choosing Parliameotary candidates.

This would prevent Conser-

senior Queen's Coursei in the chambers of Legal Affairs spokesmarr in the House of Lords, Mr Photograph: Justin Slee Goudie is chairman of

would host tea parties. for the nomination in Hayes and Harlington, where it was recently decided not to impose an all-women shortlist.

Stephen Goodwin reports on the mounting bills from

hearing into Nirex's plans to bury waste in Cumbria

ing women if they intend to have

children and men if their wives

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Inquiry into nuclear dump counts cost of Irish delay

ressure on the loog-running inquiry into plans for a ouclear waste dump beneath west Cumbria and almost certainly added to the multi-million pound hill

for the taxpayer. The inquiry, now in its 13th week, was expected to end by Christmas but could well run into February. If each day spent hearing evidence in the civic hall at Cleator Moor is taken as a day of delay in disposing of the nuclear industry's waste, then the inquiry is costing £150,000 a day, virtually all of it extracted from the public purse.

Radioactive waste sufficient to cover a football pitch 40ft deep is at present stored above ground, two-thirds of it at British Nuclear Fuel's Sellafield reprocessing plant, two miles from the dump site.

The inquiry was ordered af-ter Cumbria County Council refused an application by UK Nirex to build an underground laboratory oear Gosforth on the edge of the Lake District oational park. So far the delay has set back Nirex's timetable by 18 mooths at a cost of some £50m in interest on loans. The earliest waste from Sellafield could

go into the repository is 2012. Meeting the latest target date assumes Nirex is successful in its inquiry appeal to build the laboratory (Rock Charac-terisation Facility), the results show the rock is safe, and it theo gets permission for the full repository - an issue which will inevitably spark another big inquiry. Uncertainty over waste disposal has put a dampeeer on the Government's hopes of



Waste not: Selfafield reprocessing plant, Cumbria, present site of the Nirex waste

raising £3bn by privatising most of the ouclear power industry. Nirex's costs account for by far the largest portion. It is reckoned to have spent up to £10m so far on the inquiry - from a top legal team to a dozen support staff. Some £100,000 has been spent refurbishing an old mill as a modern office with 40 people working there oo the Nirex case. Wheo the inquiries are over the building will revert

to the community. Cumbria County Council escouncil has one QC hut also has and take on a Queen's Counto pick up the inquiry's day-to-

day running costs.
Copeland Borough Council has netted some £20,000 from its lease of the hall and offices to third parties such as Greeopeace and Friends of the Earth. Ironically, Copeland objects to

Nirea's plans.
All the parties suspect they will he in the civic hall looger as a result of a change of plan by the Irish government, which was due to give evidence last timates the cost to its charge week. It appears the Irish have payers at about £500,000. The decided to upgrade their case

sel. They are now expected to give evidence in the New Year. Duhlin has consistently opposed the expansion of ouclear facilities at Sellafield, regarding it has "part of an inexorable and increasing threat to public health, the environment and vital interests such as fishing. agriculture and tourism".

By Fehruary the inquiry will have sat for 64 days - well off the 100 days for the Thorp is reprocessing plant at Sellafield and 340 days oo the Sizewell B

Major plans 'informal' visit to Dublin

John Major is expected to visit Dublin before Christmas for an informal meeting with John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, to strengthen relations over

the Anglo-Irish peace initiative. The two prime ministers remained at odds during their emergency summit in London over Britain's demand that the fore being admitted to allparty talks.

Downing Street declined to confirm reports in Dublin that Mr Bruton had pencilled in 21 December for a further meeting with Mr Major. The Prime Minister's office said they were likely to discuss Northern Ire-

Madrid summit later this week.

However, Duhlin sources confirmed that it was likely an informal pre-Christmas meeting would take place. As the two prime ministers are unlikely to bridge their gap over the IRA, the meeting will be seen as a public relations exercise to demonstrate their determinaoon to remain united over the land in the margins of the main thrust of the peace process, in spite of differences. George Mitchell reports back.

have a seasonal flavour, with both prime ministers seeking to consolidate the peace at Christmas. Mr Major is also likely to use the visit for some shopping in Duhlin, but both know that the hard bargaining lies ahead in the New Year, when the international decommissioning body chaired by Senator

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MICHAEL SHERIDAN

France suspended its threat-ened but unspecified reprisals against Bosnian Serbs yesterday as intensive talks took place to

achieve the release of two

French pilots shot down over

way on the one hand with our

allies, on the other hand with

Belgrade," an aide to President

Jacques Chirac said. "Under

these conditions, the decisions

taken by France will not be

The official spoke after President Chirac held his second

meeting of the day with his de-

fence and foreign ministers on

the fate of Captain Frédéric

Chiffot and Lieutenant José

Souvignet, whose Mirage 2000 was shot down during Nato air raids over the Bosnian Serb

stronghold of Pale on 30 August.

mous international pressure to

bear on behalf of the two men.

Nato had also launched at least

three covert military missions to

The French government set

try to snatch the men hack.

a deadline of Sunday for the two

to be returned or for precise information to be delivered about

their fate. When that passed, the

United States and other West-

ern allies renewed their repre-

that public outrage in France

France had brought enor-

Intensive contacts are under

Diplomatic Editor

Bosnia in August.

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These were not honoured." Last Wednesday President Chirac telephoned Mr Milosevic and warned him of "multiple consequences" if the men were not released. One day later the French Foreign Ministry spokesman was authorised to threaten "consequences that would hit those holding the men and those who had failed to honour their engagements". On Friday Mr de Charette played his ace card, telling the countries and organisations

Pressure builds for French pilots' release

But on 28 September Paris Match magazine published phoat the London Conference that the situation was "intolerable" tographs proving the two men had been captured alive by the and that France would reserve its freedom of action unless the men were freed by Sunday night. Bosnian Serbs. Mr de Charette went back to Belgrade and took So strong was the French statement that the US and its up the case with Mr Milosevic. The French were further en-

bandits had kidnapped them.

Finally he said they were in the

every stage of their participation

in the Bosnia peace process to the men's fate. The French del-

egate at the Dayton, Ohio, talks raised the matter every day

with each of the parties," a French official said, "Later on

we obtained commitments from

all sides to do all they could.

The French grimly linked

hands of freelance Serbs."

allies went into overdrive to raged by the lies and evasions of the Bosnian Serb leader, French. In Belgrade, the US Radovan Karadzic. "He said special envoy and the British ern allies renewed their repre-sentations in Belgrade, fearing said a senior French official. chargé d'affaires added their voices to those urging Mr Milo-"Then he said he knew who held could delay the signing of the them but he had no leverage.



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Cry freedom: Students demonstrating their support in Sarajevo yesterday for a united city

British forces prepare to confront looting Croats

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British peace-keepers in Bosnia are moving towards the front lines of northern Bosnia to prepare for their renaissance in 10 days' time as heavily armed Nato troops on a mission to euforce the Dayton peace plan. But with him berets still in evidence, they are forced to stand by as local Croat forces torch and loot the towns surrendered to the Serbs under the

60 per cent of housing in Sipo-Mrkoniic Grad, as well as at least four neighbouring villages, have been razed by Bosn- into Mrkonjic Grad has been ian Croat soldiers - after being stripped of stoves, fridges, furniture and other goods. The lev-el of arson has fallen; but flames and smoke mark the latest targets in the area; countless other houses are roofless and

the highest levels to the [Bosu-

the commander of British UN troops, who will lead a British brigade in Nato's peace implementation force (I-For). The burning began in earnest about 10 days ago - just after the signing of the Dayton plan that will return the area to Serb control - but has diminished in intensi-

Bosnia peace agreement in Paris on Thursday.

Yesterday afternoon the Yugoslav defence minister,

Pavle Bulatovic, told a visiting

Nato delegation he expected a

lots. Later, the White House

spokesman in Washington said

the US was "very hopeful" that

the men would soon be set free.

Chirac said he held the Serbian

leader Slobodan Milosevic re-

sponsible for the pilots. Three

covert belicopter rescue mis-

sions were launched by Nato on

get them out. All three failed.

de Charette, then met his Ser-

bian counterpart, Milan Mi-

lutinovic, in Belgrade and demanded information about

the men. The Serbian minister

said he knew nothing. When the

York, Mr de Charette was giv-

en the same brush-off.

7 and 8 September to try to

The Foreign Minister, Hervé

On 5 September President

"positive statement" on the pi-

ty since the British protests. However, a cloud of white smoke rose from a house on the hill overlooking Mrkonjic Grad on Sunday, while a huilding in Sipovo smouldered gently, its In the past two weeks, around - roof charred and caved in, just down the street from an HVO vo and about 30 per cent in truck and a small group of

soldiers Ominously, one main bridge wired with explosives and is ready to blow. There seems to be very little battle damage in either town but dozens of buildings are blackened by fire, discarded booty lies all around and timbers stand ready to help

by Serbs earlier in the war.

UN officials say they have no mandate to stop the vandalism, but are extremely concerned about the precedent set - especially in the Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo that are due to revert to government rule next month. Still, the burning and looting can be seen as a good omen for the British division of I-For. it is clear the Bosnian Croat militia does not intend to contest the Dayton demand

that it withdraw from the area. Brig Dannat said the civilian Croat anthorities are pulling out already. Some critics fear UN inaction over the Croat destruction - especially in the case of troops who will merely switch their blue berets for green - risks consolidating the culture of compromise (some would say appeasement) that

characterised the UN mission. The brigadier rejects such arguments. Texpect to have a to-

obligations.
"One would threaten and then use military force that would be extremely powerful," he said, "I'll make it quite clear

to the parties." Brig Dannat, who has had extensive and, he says, effective conversations on the topic with Croat and Muslim commanders, is hoping to meet the Serb commander in Banja Luka soon to make the same point. His men are equally keen.

"We should just drive straight through," muttered one soldier, stamping his feet against the cold at a Croat checkpoint in Mrkoniic Grad that had found fault with the paperwork provided by a British convoy of Warrior armoured vehicles. They were sent back to a Crost base to discuss exactly how they would reach their destination: a prospective base for British I-For troops in the town.

The brigadier does not expect any such scenarios after 19 December: "Freedom of movediscussion topic." he said.

new blazes. The roots of this tally different regime in a totally different environment after De-"We immediately protested at wanton destruction - pure spite cember 19th," he said. He is ment [for I-For] is not even a against the returning Serbs - can ian Croat militial that this was be seen nearby, the weed-filled sending all the wrong signals," shells of Muslim and Croat ready to use overwhelming force if the warring factions fail sending all the wrong signals,"

GLENDA COOPER

Children are becoming delib-crate targets of war, with more aiming to reduce the impact of than 2 million killed in the last decade. 10 million severely traumatised and hundreds of thousands more involved in actual fighting, according to the United Nations Children's

British Red Greek Fo

(please tick as appropriate)

Save the Children

Commemorating its 50th anniversary, Unicef has launched a 10-point anti-war agenda,

armed conflict on children. In its latest annual report, The State of the World's Children 1996, it says: "It is the single characteristic of warfare in our time that children suffer most ... The death and suffering of

children cannot be tolerated." The report was launched in London yesterday.

Children have always been caught up in war but the dangers have been intensified. In the First World War civilians accounted for 14 per cent of the victims. By the Second World War it was close to 70 per cent and by 1990 almost 90 per cent.

In the last decade it is estimated that 2 million children have been killed, 4-5 million disabled, 12 million made homeless, more than 1 million orphaned or separated from their parents and some 10 million psychologically traumatised.

One of the most disturbing aspects of recent conflicts is the "frightening escalation" in the use of children as soldiers. In 1988 alone 200,000 were fighting.

In 1986, the Uganda National Resistance Army had 3,000 child soldiers. In Liberia a quarter of combatants were children - 20,000 in all. And in Angola 7 per ceot of children had fired at someone, accord-

arming rise in child soldiers

ing to a 1995 survey. Children have no fighting in wars," Carol Bellamy, Unicel's executive director, said. "Yet thousands, even hundreds of thousands ... do fight." She called for an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child raising the

minimum age for military recruitment from 15 to 18. The State of the World's Children 1996; Unicef: £5.95 ■ The Independent's appeal to readers to support four charities working to help child victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia has so far raised a total of £58,000, has been donated so far. Readers can use

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international

Austria's hills are alive to the sound of money

At first glance, Austria seems a leading candidate to participate in the single European currency scheduled for launch in Jan-uary 1999. Austrians enjoy one cutting measures have proof the world's highest living standards, inflation is low, and the schilling has remained fixed to the German mark for a decade while other European curren-

cies have falleo by the wayside. Yet this happy picture is deceptive in several important ernmeot will have to make reocy and only 38.6 per cent respects. Austria's government, a coalition of social democrats and conservatives, collapsed last October over how in reduce the budget deficit, forcing a general election next Sunday.

Like a majnrity of European Union members, Austria faces a difficult battle to meet the 1999 deadline and bring down its deficit to 3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, the level stipulated by the Maastricht treaty for countries hoping to be part of monetary union. According to a study by economists at Salomoo Brothers, Austria's deficit will be 5.5 per cent of GDP this year - higher even than in France, where hudget- litical scene. Austrians voted for EU membership by a two-to-one majority in a Jooe 1994 ref-

In the first of a series, Tony Barber looks at problems posed by the EMU

voked widespread social unrest. Moreover, Austria's public debt, at a projected 68 per cent of GDP this year, is above the 60 per cent required under the Maastricht terms. The 1999 deadline means the next govsome fast and painful decisions

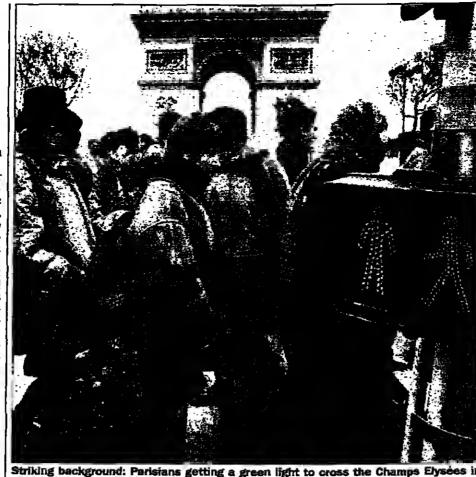
if Austria is to qualify for mon-

Wolfgang Schüssel, the leader of the conservative People's Party, insists that radical cuts in pensions and welfare payments are the nnly way forward. "I am not sure Austria can and will reach the criteria for monetary union," he said. "That is the main reason we are having elections."

An attempt to introduce such cuts could have a significant impact on Austrian perceptions of the EU and on the domestic po-

erendum, but the honeymoon is definitely over. Recent polls suggest 60 per cent of Austrians now consider it was a bad move to inin the EU. As for mnoetary union, 54.5 per cent oppose giving up the schilling for the single cur-

There is clearly a risk that these levels of disillusion and scepticism will rise if Austria's next government imposes austerity measures that the general public associates with an attempt to participate in mooetary union. The most abvious beneficiary in political terms would be Jorg Haider, the farright leader of the Freedom Party, who has denounced the planned single European cur-rency as a fraud. Support for Mr Haider's party is running at about 25 per ceot, compared with 31 per cent for the Social Democrats and 30 per cent for the People's Party.



Striking background: Parisians getting a green light to cross the Champs Elysees in Photograph: Lionel Cironneau/AP

Juppé fails to break deadlock over strikes

Little progress toward ending 18 days of strike chaos emerged yesterday from Alain Juppe's talks with leaders of France's main trade union organisations.

"There is no way out of the crisis for the moment," said Louis Viannet, head of the CGT federation, which includes many railwaymen whn have spearheaded the strikes, after meeting the Prime Minister. Marc Bloodel, leader of the

Force Ouvrière grouping and one of the most bitter critics of Mr Juppe's plan to reform the social security system, said before his meeting with the Prime Minister that he was optimistic.

Afterwards he said that he thought Mr Juppé was open to eventual negotiation but was counting on the strikes losing momentum. Mr Binodel said the fixing of a date for talks would be "the cherry on the cake". The sooner there were "global negotiations, the sooner there would be a ginbal peace", he added.

FO had dropped its demand that Mr Juppé abandon his reform plans, announced on 15 November, before any talks could take place.

Mr Juppe's series of meetings, which included nne with Jean Gandois, the head of the emplayers' federation, the CNPF, followed his announcement in a television interview on Sunday that he was ready in meet union leaders and take part in a "social summit on employment"

During the interview, he announced concessions largely aimed at the railwaymen. These included the indefinite withdrawal of a new agreement betweeo the state and the railway system which, according to the unions, would have entailed line closures and job losses; a reaffirmation of the existing pension arrangements for drivers, and the suspension of a committee set up to look at special pension arrangements for certain categories of workers.

Mr Juppé said he was ready to talk about youth employment and the length of the working week. But he made it clear that there was no questino of withbring forward a motion of ceosure in the National Assembly today, in a vain attempt to stop

According to the govern-ment, the strikes are starting to fray at the edges. It said 3.5 per cent of public sector workers were on strike compared with 18. 5 per cent at the end of last week. In the education sector, 19 per cent of staff were on

But Paris and many other big cities are still affected by public transport strikes. The Paris Metro and suburban RER systems were closed and only one bus in 20 was running. Huge traffic jams again built up in and

around the city. Thulouse, Marseilles, Bor-deaux, Lyons, Rennes and Avignon were also hit in varying degrees. The railway system remained paralysed and postal services were again disrupted. even though the proportion of strikers was said to have fallen from 6 per cent last week to 4 per cent yesterday.



Louis Viannet: 'No way out of the crisis'

The CGT and FO unions, as well as a teachers' group, have called another day of action and demonstrations for today, No newspapers are expected to appear today,

If the government needed a reminder of its unpopularity it came in the farm of by-election reverses over the weekend. The government held only two of the seven seats being contested. Four of the remaining five went to the Socialists and the fifth to annther left-wing party, the Movement of Citizens.

dicted, but the results in the nth-In noe, President Jacques Chirac had woo 61 per cent of the vote in the presidential

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Day of reckoning near after 15 years

RD LLOYD PARRY lu, South Korea

the Special Warfae and shot the studens," r Choi, the taxi drive, a them didn't die stright

er there, by the CigHall, line of big armytrucks, hen the demo lad been n up, the soldies got out arted going though the The first gy took the the second gy took the nd they sling them in the of the trues. When the started niving they took and _ mack! smack! - hit tem on the head a but. They stopped g afte that."

fil nie days ago, when a her Soth Korean presi-t cand Chun Doo Hwan aristed, the name of angi was little known oute Kirea; Mr Choi's story exincone of the reasons why. fore driving his cab, he was policeman, and he found mself on duty in the city, a reonal capital in the far southest of Korea, on 18 May 1980. The date has become infamous. The year before, 16 years ago today, the then General Chun seized power in a military coup. Six months later, he suspended the National As-sembly. On 17 May, he declared martial law and immediately started arresting political op-ponents. All over the country, there were protests and demonstrations, and nowhere was out-

rage greater than in Kwangju. Rioting is virtually part of the university curriculum in South Korea, and the students who took to the streets knew what to expect: untidy baton charges from the police, a few cases of concussion and broken arms. Instead, and for reasons which are still unknown, they got the Special Warfare Command - crack troops, trained to repel a Communist invasion. As a local policeman. Mr Chol was no sentimentalist when it came to unruly students. But even he could not believe what he saw.

"The special army hadn'i caten since they came down from the north," he said, and they were crazy by the time they arrived in Kwangju. They were given a drink, and then they were set loose - to kill the peo-ple, just crush them like flies." A group of students raided an



Flashback: Student rioters with carbines and helmets abandoned by the police storm though Kwangju's streets in May 1980

arsenal and started firing back. There were tanks, machine guns, and charges not with truncheons, but with bayonets. The killings continued, on and off, for 10 days. The official civilian death count was 193; but 288 families were later compensated by the government, and unofficial estimates put the toll of dead and missing as high as 2,000.

Among Kwangju people, and generals, the events were as dev-

astating and talismaric as those of Prague in 1968 or Peking in 1989. But elsewhere, even in South Korea itself, the massacre was,for years, little more than a rumour. Partly this was because of fear: many parents, it is said, took their dying children out of hospital, and buried them secretly, for fear of the reprisals that would be visited upon the families.

But it was also because so the left-wing opposition to the many of the key witnesses, those groggy students Mr Choi the next 10 days. He was ar-

saw being lifted into the vans, were never heard from again, On a hillside outside Kwangju is a cemetery where 130 of the victims are commemorated. Only 13 of the bodies huried there are identified, including two students who hurned themselves to death years later in protest at the Kwangju

cover-up. If everything goes to plan, Mr Chun will be charged with the Kwangju murders some time in

rested for questioning a week and a half ago, just before another ex-president, Roh Tae Woo, also believed to have colluded in the massacre, was charged with a massive bribery

A special law, personally commissioned by President Kim Young Sam, is expected to be passed to allow their prosecu-tion; the Kwangju trial is to take place next year and with massive public support for the prosecution, there is little doubt

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Photograph: AP about its outcome. But in Kwangju itself, the atmosphere is less than jubilant. "For 15

years we have waited for jus-

tice." said a local journalist.

Now the politicians seem to

think they can sort it out overnight.

Kwangju today looks an unlikely symbol of Korean martyrdom - a featureless, untidy city of 1.3m people. But it epitomises the greatest problem lacing the country: regionalism. still in power, like a cancer eat-Divided from the Communist ing away from the inside."

North by the Cold War, South Korca's provinces are beset by crippling internal rivalries that out-strip all other ideological differences.
Three of the last four presi-

dents have come from the rival Kwongsang region, and it was to there, for years, that the lion's share of Korea's growing wealth was directed. "Even 200 years ago in the Yicho Empire. Kwangju was Siberia - this was where troublemakers from the capital were exiled," said Noh Dong Kyu, a hotelier who was beaten up during the 18 May incident. "We're proud to be known as Kwangju people. Even though we've been suppressed, we've survived each and every time."

But despite being the fourth biggest city, Kwangju ranks bottom in economic terms. Ironically, the man most to blame for the city's economic isolation also is its greatest source of pride the leading opposition leader, Kim Dae Jung. In various political incarnations, Mr Kim has enjoyed local support as high as 90 per cent. But as a dissident and bane of successive presidents, he has scaled the city's reputation as an ungrateful trouble-maker. Recently, Kwangju has enjoyed a sudden upsurge of investment - motorways, a new port and airport - a transparent hid by the other Mr Kim, the President, to make political inroads.

To the cynical eye, this is also the impulse behind the Kwangju inquiry, To Kim Dae Jung, the failure of the govcriment to investigate the massacre was worth countless votes. Even Kim Young Sam. a fellow liberal who sprang to power after teaming up with his former military enemies, declared the subject dead and buried after his election. Suddenly, though, he has grabbed the political football and run with it. The President's insistence that only the most senior leaders will he prosecuted for the coup and massacre, has confirmed the suspicion of political expedience.

Just five or six convictions will not solve anything," said Mr Noh. "The evil men we have always known, but their orders were carried out by hundreds who are still hidden. They will be left there, behind the scenes,

Panic as killer opts for death by shooting

Rupert Cornwell

The penal authorities in Utah have been thrown into panic by the request of a convicted killer to go before a firing squad, rather than undergo lethal injection, on his scheduled execution day next month.

Since Gary Gilmore earned his niche in history by relling a firing squad "Lei's do il" at dawn on 17 January 1977, the four other Utah executions have been carried out by lethal injection. Not, however, John Albert Taylor, sentenced to dic on 26 January for the 1988 rape and murder of an 11-year old

Despite continuing to assert his innocence, Taylor abandoned further appeals last weekend. He insists, however, on exercising the option al-lowed by Utah, alone among states, of the firing squad, "I don't want to go flipping around like a fish out of water on that

table," he is quoted as saying. The request has sent the state scrambling to comply. The former prison cannery building where Gilmore was shot, strapped in a leather office chair in front of a bank of sandbags, has been demolished. There is no written protocol for the type of weapons to be used, the distance from the target and the required lighting condi-tions. Nor is it laid down how members of the five-man firing squad will be selected, and where they will practice,

"We've got a fair amount of work and not much time." a prison spokesman said. "It's always been assumed that when it comes down to it, people would choose lethal injection."

Gumore's execution, a chaotic. carnival-like event which inspired Norman Mailer's book [ital]The Executioner's Song. marked the resumption of capital punishment in the US after a 10-year hiatus. Since then there have been 311 executions, an unpredented 54 of them in 1995 alone. America's total Death Row population stands at 3,021, according to the

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tree that grows, a monster mouse with seven heads and a magic sleigh that transports Clara the young heroine to a land of flying pastry cooks.

The prizewinner's performance takes place at the Royal Festival Hall on Thursday 28 December, 1995, and to be in with a chance of winning four stalls tickets, simply answer the following question.

Question: Who composed the music for the ballet The Nutcracker?

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MICHEL SHERIDAN Diplometic Editor

Britain Isterday expelthe senior Liban diplomat ondon after the security sees provided extence that was spying on disidents oppi to Colonel Muamar Gad.

The move fused annediate response by the our MP Tam Dalye who sthe Government might havade the move to forest potally

covernment must havade the move to forest potally embarrassing Libin cessions over the Lockie thing of Pan Am flighton Mr Dalyell is to ask hands a pout the decision Research

jor about the decision\Pe Minister's question too Thursday. "I would likk!

quite certain that the exp has nothing to do with

pressure the Foreign Offi

under to have the Lockerbit

al of the two alleged Libyan

pects in Scotland, and it danger, from their viewpoint.

Libyan agreement to a tr. there," he said yesterday.

Two alleged Libyan agen

have been charged by Scottis

law authorities with placing ; bomb aboard Flight 103 in De cember 1988. Libya refuses to

hand them over, saying they cannot receive a fair trial in Britain or the United States. The UN has imposed sanc-

tions to compel Colonel
Gaddafi to yield the men.
Mr Dalyell and other critics
contend the Government is

engaged in a cover-up to put all

trial'

Six die in Madrid car-bomb blast

ELIZABETH NASH

A huge car bomb exploded in a working-class suburb of Madrid yesterday, killing six people and wounding at least 18, three seriously. The explosion caused extensive damage in a crowded area. It destroyed several nearby vehicles and narrowly missed a school bus full of children.

The blast comes days before Europe's heads of government converge on the city for the European Union summit at the weekend. It follows the deaths on Sunday of two Basque policemen who were shot in the back in the Basque region of Guipuzcoa. The young man accused of their murder had apparently taken part in previous Eta assaults.

One of the six victims nf yesterday's attack died of his injuries shortly after being taken to hospital. Another was an elderly woman who was passing by. The four others who died were the occupants of the vehicle, which was destroyed: civilian drivers and mechanics

employed by the navy.
The Defence Minister, Gustavo Suarez Pertierra, who visited the scene, described the attack as "useless" and "nutrageous". The perpetrators would not achieve their goals, he said.

The events could not have occurred at a worse time for the government, which has been doing everything in its power for months to ensure that the European summit on Friday and Saturday passes off smnothly.

The attack heightens fears of further vinlence by the Basque separatist group Eta, which last struck in Madrid in June when a policeman was blown up by a car bomb in the centre of the capital. The latest attack, like that in June, is attributed to Eta's Madrid command. whose structure the authorities acknowledge remains intact.

In April, the leader of the conservative opposition Popular Party (PP), Jose Maria Aznar, narrowly escaped death when 50kg of explosives destroyed the vehicle in which he was travelling. Only the strength of the armour-plating on Mr Aznar's car saved him. In August, police foiled an Eta plot to kill King Juan Carlos near his to kill King Juan Carlos near his summer palace on the island of

Unlike the long rapprochement that eventually brought peace between the British government and the IRA, there has never been any official suggestion in Spain that Eta's armed struggle, the last home-grown guerrilla war in Europe, could be ended by negotiatinn. Indeed when a former secret se-curity chief was last week accused by Basque police of handing Eta a proposed plan for negotiation, his alleged action was interpreted as an act of

riminal folly.

None the less, Spain's secret security services, capable of logging even the private telephone conversations of the king, have been incapable of preventing a stream of terror-ist attacks against carefully chosen political targets.

At the weekend, Herri Bata-

suna, Eta's political wing, elected a new hardline leadership in accordance with what the party called "the passing from the stage of resistance to a stage of

Yesterday's attack brings to 13 the number of people killed by terrorists this year. The first attack was in January when a policeman was shot dead in Bilhao. Ten days later, the PP leader in the Basque country, Gregorio Ordonez, was shot dead in a San Sebastian restaurant. In the most recent attack before yesterday's, an army captain was seriously wounded in a car bomh attack on 10 November: both his legs were



Slaughter in the suburbs: Police and firemen Inspect the devastation at the scene of the car bomb in Madrid

Peking promises 'open' trial for Wei Jing

Peking — China's definition of "open" and "public" will be put to the test tomorrow when the country's most famous pro-democracy dissident, Wei Jingsheng, goes on trial at Peking's No I Intermediate People's Court accused of trying to overthrow the government, writes Teresa Poole.

There was considerable scep-ticism yesterday when the court's spokesman, Chen Xiong, said proceedings would he "open to the public" – and started taking applications from foreign journalists for a seat at the trial, By the end of the day, it was still unclear whether the government was about to break

Political trials in China are routinely held behind closed doors, with only close family members of the accused allowed to attend, and handpicked observers to fill the courtroom - conditions which China describes as "open". Mr

Wei's trial would be open to Chinese people, later decided that locals also had to apply to

Some indication of the quality of Chinese justice was given by Mr Chen's description of the current "investigative phase". He explained: "Before the open Chen, after first saying that Mr hearing, the court interrogates

tigates whether the charges put forward by the procuratorate are true

The trial will open at 9am, and Mr Wei, in detention since April 1994 after meeting a US cial, could be sentenced the

the hlame for Lockerbie on Libya. "The last thing the British government wants is a trial in this country at which their bluff could be drawn," Mr Dalyell said.

Ministers deny there is any truth to Mr Dalyell's suspicions and say they would welcome a trial in Scotland. There was no connection between yesterday's expulsion and Lockerbic, officials said.

The Foreign Office said it summoned the Saudi Arabian ambassador, whose country protects Libyan interests in Britain, to tell him the diplomat, Khalifa Ahmed Bazelya, was to leave London by 25 December. It said Mr Bazelya had en-gaged in "activities incompati-ble with his status", the usual language for espionage or criminal behaviour.

Security sources said the envoy had engaged in surveil-lance of Libyan opposition figures in London. They ruled murder of a dissident Ali Mehmed Abuzeid, 55, found stabbed to death in his west London shop on 26 November.

Britain is represented in Tripoli by two diplomats who work at the Italian embassy. The Foreign Office said there would be no justification for any reciprocal measures against them.

Hotpot king cooks up a fortune in China's backwater

TERESA POOLE Yinchuan City

"I don't like to go to the south of China, because I feel unbalanced when I come back to Ningxia," said Liu Dehua, who has just returned from a trip to the Special Economic Zone in

west of China, otherwise it will be too late," he added. "At the moment, the difference be-

Kong. "You see how advanced

of China is, maybe, 50 years." Mr Liu, 52, is no scrounger. He is one of the biggest private businessmen in one of China's

tween inland and coastal areas

provincial capital of Ningria, is packed. He has just imported hai to set up the biggest duckegg production facility in the north-west. His family is settling into their new Im yuan (£80,000) house.

His is a rare character in in-Shenzhen, bordering Hong land China, a restless self-made back to Ningxia, everything risk, whose expressive hands

Ningxia's best red wine, he says frankly: "The senior leaders in the north-west - their minds are not liberated." Born in Yinchuan, Mr Liu lib-

erated himself from the state system in 1987. The son of a revolutionary martyr killed by the restaurant in Yinchuan City, the 1947, he says he "was very, very used to be black. In the past I

naughty" as a child and left be-fore finishing middle school. He started his state-sector career as an electrician, then became a truck driver and in 1975 Joined a collective clothing factory. At the factory he took con-

trol of the vehicle repair shop and quickly turned in a profit for the collective. On the side, he man and a Communist Party set up a private vehiclethey are, and when you come member with an appetite for interior fitting shop and by 1988 he had enough cash to buy looks wrong in your eyes.

never stop moving as he de"The government should scribes his latest business plan. ing) building where his restautonomous Zone is more than a Mr Liu's empire now in-

ciudes a petrol station, a soundand-light equipment business and the most ambitious venture so far - all those ducks, with a predicted daily production of 26,000 eggs.
"I always think, why do I work

poorest provinces. His hotpot Nationalist Kunmintang in so hard? My hair went white; it

was an extremely open person, I had a lot of hobbies, playing musical instruments and singing, swimming, skating. hobbies," he exclaimed, with all the theatricality of a former singer in a Cultural Revolution

state entertainment troupe.

In 1989, his was the first pri-

vate restaurant in Ningxia and, with a capacity for 250, it is still the biggest. As Mr Liu knows, the remote Ningxia Hui Auin waking up to the message of Deng Xiaoping's "reform and opening" policies. Many of Ningxia's 5 million people still live below the poverty line. The province, a 24-hour train ride

Somewhat belatedly, China's central government is now concerned at the huge wealth gap between the coastal and inland regions, the legacy of geographical inequalities plus 15 years of policies which favoured aiready fast-growing regions. The recently agreed Ninth Five Year Plan (1996-2000) is de-

signed to redress the imbalance, but the details are still scarce. Yuan Erzhuo, of Ningxia's tee, admits the average annual income of Ningxia's state enterprise workers is less than 3,000 yuan (£240) compared with more than 8,000 yuan in Shanghai. Mr Yuan says the new

are not equipped to drag enterprises. The only problem Ningxia into the 21st century. is that 60 per cent of this is supposed to be borrowed from the credit-squeezed banks. Yet in Mr Liu's restaurant,

which caters for Ningxla's Hui Muslims by serving lamb instead of pork, the tables are full of (mostly male) locals for whom life is improving, even if they are not in the same world as Shenzhen. Poverty is relative in China. Yinchuan now boasts reasonably stocked department stores and dozens of bustling with Mr Lin's. "Since 1990, private business has got off the ground in Ningxia," he said.

Are his three children following in their father's footsteps? Far from it. Two are in from Peking, is drought-strick-en, a majority of its big state in-dustries are loss-making, and most of its old-fashioned cadres

Five Year Plan specifies that 6bn year of the third has just finished three spent on modernising the best years in the army: "My children of Ningxia's state-owned are not as open-minded as me."



There is more to it than that: "I have experienced a lot since 1958, and who knows what the future will be?" be said. "The government jobs are safe and reliable, though the salary is low. In the future, if there are problems. I will have to shoulder those problems alone."

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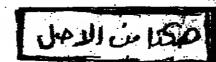
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getions: As politic m gang rove a padache

international

Haiti elections: As polling day approaches, even the police must be protected by UN troops

Slum gangs prove a headache for Clinton

IL DAVISON ė Soleii, Haiti

tis Max Vital, the police numissaire, stood almost to ention as he told us that his in were outnumbered by the dguys in his precinct, the subman slum district of Cité leil outside Haiti's capital, rt-au-Prince.

He stood because there were chairs in the bare, stoneored "office", little bigger an a public toilet booth; to ention, because he was clearproud to be at the head of 100 en at the age of 24. Because of this seething slum

y's reputation as a centre of nce, political and otherwise, r Vital is an important mem-r of the new, US-trained, aitian National Police, formed ider President Jean Bertrand ristide to replace the dreadmilitary-led police force of rmer years.

His preoccupation is the pos-pility of armed attacks by a adowy new group called the rmée Rouge (Red Army) in is "city" of 200,000 souls, on aiti's presidential election day 2 Sunday. The well-armed oup - most foreign observers ased here prefer to call them gang - is thought to have proked a series of incidents in reent weeks, including an attack n the police station late last outh which freed seven Red army prisoners and forced Mr ital and his men to flee.

They returned, looking as ignified as they could under the ircumstances, at dawn last riday, but only under the rotection of several platoons f US and Bangladeshi soliers from the United Nations eace-keeping force which has inged the building ever since, long with the barbed wire. Mr Vital, m a tennis shirt and

due jeans, said his men could telp of their UN friends. But what will happen after 29 Febtroops are due to pull out, is another question. The US and its

the Red Army, or other newly hlossomed groups such as the Saddam Hussein faction in the

north of the country, will attempt to disrupt Sunday's elec-tion to replace Mr Aristide. With US troops moving into Bosnia, the possibility that 2,500 American troops could be sucked in and forced to stay on in Haiti is one that President Bill Clinton cannot relish.

Most foreign observers here do not take the new groups par-ticularly seriously, but concede that they may be revamped versions of earlier militias, dis-mantled after last year's US mil-itary intervention, and could prove disruptive.

"The Red Army is a revolu-tionary group," said Mr Vital, confirming its existence to the media for the first time. "If they were old Tontons Macoutes, we would know who they are," he added, referring to the feared militiamen who terrorised the population under the Duvalier dynasty, "We estimated there are 200 of them in Cité Soleil, scattered in small cells,"

"We think they've come from various political groups and are essentially mercenary," Mr Vital added, "They're dangerous only if they can bring the people with them, and here the people are against them. They may be well-armed ... but we have the spirit to defeat them."

Because Cité Soleil is a swarming, stinking mass of shanty homes, ruhhish dumps sewers, humans and animals making it easy for gunmen to fire and disappear, Mr Vital's men do not venture out on foot. They use namarked pickup trucks, often accompanied by jeeps packed with UN troops usually from Third World countries such as Bangladesh, who are welcomed more warmly than Americans or Europeans.

Outside the police station. Chief Inspector Adi Hirner of the Austrian police, an adviser with the UN force, told us: "I mink everybody's a bit nervous about the elections. A lot depends on Aristide, what he tells the UN his people." He noted that the so-called Interim Police Force set up by Mr Aristide as a tranallies are discussing leaving behind some soldiers and police
officers to bolster security after
the scheduled departure date.
In the meantime, the main
preoccupation here is whether

er said: "There are some good officers, and some bad, as in any police force."

INBRIEF

Genera - A medical team that crossed into Liberia to investigate a possible outbreak of ebola fever, has discovered four more suspected cases, the World Health Organisation announced. The five-member team visited the home of a 25-year-old Liberian

refusee who was confirmed on Friday as having the highly con-tagious virus. They found two men sick with fever and extreme

fatigue, possible early signs of ebola infection. They have been solated in their home, WHO said. Another woman in the house as been hospitalised in the Ivory Coast with symptoms similar

Inches — Fremer Andreas rapandreou's nealin again worsened id a new infection forced doctors to place him on a respirator, for must understand that when a man has a fever and is put ta respirator if means the sinuation is dangerous, "Doctor Dimis Vlachakos said. Mr Papandreou developed a fever in the ear-afternoon which "is indicative of an infection."

AP

5 bids to revive Israel-Syria peace talks

shington — President Bill Clinton said he was sending the Secary of State. Warren Christopher, to the Middle East to repeace talks between Israel and Syria. Mr Clinton made the abuncement after talks at the White House with the Israeli Prime

nister. Shimon Peres. He said he had also talked by telephone the Syrian President, Hafez al-Assad, Mr Christopher was acpart on Thursday for the Middle East after attending the linia peace accord signing in Paris.

Reuter

urists die in police car-chase ramming

hpa, Florida — Two Germans visiting an acquaintance were ked when their car was rammed by a car fleeing from police. Itz Bar, 40, and Markus Rossknecht, died moments after the adent early on Sunday, said a police spokesman. The German annuals were residents of Spain.

AP

3cow - A candidate for parliament said he was approached

Mow — A candidate for parliament said he was approached wan offer he had to refuse: a chance to have his opponents pically crippled. Grigory Beryozkin said a man who identified he'll as Vasily Veshkin offered "special actions" to eliminate he'll as Vasily veshkin offered "special actions" to eliminate he'll as Vasily veshkin offered "special a

therate car crashes, bomb attacks, fist fights and kidnappings. Icost ranged from \$7,000 (£4,600) for a car crash to \$15,000

lw twist to Russian democracy

apandreou takes a turn for the worse thens - Premier Andreas Papandreou's health again worsened

Ebola fever outbreak feared in Liberia



Popular support: René Preval takes the stage at a raily in Haiti. He is expected to succeed Jean Bertrand Aristide, the island's first democratically elected President in next Sunday's vote Photograph: AP/Daniel Morel

Photograph: AP/Daniel Morel

Africans block Nigeria boycott

ROBERT BLOCK Iohannesburg

President Nelson Mandela failed yesterday to rally south-ern African leaders to his campaign to punish Nigeria's military regime for lust month's execution of nine minority rights activists.

A meeting in Pretoria of the representatives of the 12-mentber Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) backed international efforts to push Nigeria towards democracy but refused to take an initiative of its own.

The SADC leaders said it would be "unwise" for any of them to make individual policy statements on Nigeria.

Mr Mandela had called the meeting under the pretense of reviewing Commonwealth initiatives to force democratic change in Nigeria. But according to government sources, he really wanted to galvanise regional support for his call to boycott Nigeria's oil exports.

But such a development was unlikely after the US Vice-President, Al Gore, appeared non-committal about Mr Mandela's campaign during an official visit last week. In a further setback, the Secretary-General

of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Salim Ahmed Salim, said on Friday that he did not support a campaign to

isolate Nigeria.
The United States, the European Union and some African countries have imposed an arms embargo on Nigeria and withdrawn ambassadors, but only Germany and France are sympathetic to Mr Mandela's call for an oil embargo.

Faced with such overwhelming opposition, Mr Mandela sought to dispel the impression that sanctions were on the agenda of yesterday's meeting. suing his call for action against Nigeria, Mr Mandela replied: "Ali possible options are not excluded...any such options must be through the [Commonwealth] structure.'

The Commonwealth has chosen a committee of eight member states, including South Africa, to look at ways to foment

democracy in Nigeria.
The SADC meeting had been billed as a summit, but only five of the body's 12 heads of state turned up. Only Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana and Malawi were represented at the highest

All dressed up and ready to go.

Power-assisted steering

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1.4i engine

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Escort Finesse. £11,600 on the road.



tket clerk dies after copycat fire attack

Mork — A New York subway token booth clerk who was sewhy burned last month in an attack that copied a scene in a
why burned last month in an attack that copied a scene in a
whollywood film has died, police said. Harvey Kaufman, 50,
who who were the control of his body on 26 November when
when youred lignic through the money slot at a subway stahard ignited it causing an explosion. Mr Kaufman was trapped
than ignited it causing an explosion. Mr Kaufman was trapped
the Officials said the incident mirrored a scene in the film,

Reuter

Money Train Money Train.

'On the road price includes delivery to the dealer, 12 months road fund ticence, number chates and fuel

Sir Charles **Evans**

top a few days earlier. On 26 able mountaineer, Evans had reached a point barely 300ft from the 29,029ft peak in what assault the expedition made on the mountain.

Summit and the ultimate peak was clearly visible. But they calculated that the oxygen in their cylinders was about to run out and that there was too little daylight to reach the top and de-scend safely. Wisely, they turned back; the information they supplied to Hillary and

Tenzing proved invaluable.

As the expedition's deputy leader and quartermaster Evans made an enormous contribution. He was a courageous man; during the approach march to the mountain he narrowly escaped death when the undertow of a river dragged him down and threw him against suhmerged rocks. But he fought his way to

Evans was trained as a surgeon and later became Principal of the University College of North Wales, Bangor. However he will be particularly remembered for his contribution to the exploration of the high

One of a small group of promising climbers immedi-ately after the Second World War, he made three visits to Nepal in the years preceding the conquest of Everest, In 1950 he took part in an attempt on Annapurna, reaching a height of 24,000ft. He was a key member of a party which attempted Deo Tibba in 1951 and in 1952 he climbed with Eric Shipton on Cho Oyu. The Everest expedition, an achievement which set the seal on Coronation Year, stands out as one of Evans's

When Edmund Hillary and greatest achievements. However Sherpa Tenzing reached the to many be eclipsed that in 1955 summit of Mount Everest on 29 when he led a successful assault May 1953, shortly before noon, on Kangchenjunga, the third Charles Evans was recovering highest Himalayan peak, which from an attempt to reach the was climbed for the first time. The summit, said by the people May, in company with Tom of Sikkim on whose border it Bourdillon, another redoubt- stands to be inhabited by gods, was never actually attained Evans bad given an undertaking to Pandit Nehru, the Indicome to be known as the first an prime minister, that the sacred spot would not be desecrated. He promised not to The pair were on the South climb beyond a point five feet short of the summit - a position from which the top could bave been reached with ease.

Evans was born in the village of Derwen in North Wales a few days before the end of the First World War. He was educated at Shrewsbury School and Uni-versity College, Oxford, where he read Medicine. After qualifying in 1943 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was posted to the Far East. During his service he was mendoned in dispatches and acquired an ahiding interest in the

On demobilisation in 1947 he hecame surgical registrar at Liverpool Regional Hospitals. After the Kangchenjunga tri-umph of 1955 he undertook a number of other Himalayan climbs but his physical abilities began to diminish and when multiple sclerosis was diagnosed his career as one of the world's leading mountaineers drew to a close.

The high places were denied to him, but he regularly at-tended the reunions of the Everest expedition held every five years at the Pen-y-Gwryd Inn which nestles on the slopes of Snowdon and was the headquarters for the expedition's initial preparations. The inn with its showcase of Everest memorabilia and a panelled "Everest room" is a Mecca for climbers and those who continue to marvel at one of the 20th century's

most inspiring feats. In 1957 Evans, a native



with Tom Bourtfillon, on Everest, 1953 Photograph: Alfred Gregory / Royal Geographical Society

Welsh-speaker, became Princitioned by some of his staff. In 1979 Dafydd Wigley, the Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarfon, called on the then Education pal of UCNW, Bangor. He fought his disability with courage hut eventually was forced to take to a wheelchair. Secretary Shirley Williams to in-stitute a public inquiry into the Bangor was not the most placid of colleges. There were tensions hetween Welsh-speaking sturunning of the college, hut dents and their monoglot classeventually fences were mended. mates. In February 1978 the Evans retired in 1984. Welsh speakers invaded Evans's office, superglued lecture-room locks and occupied part of the campus, which overlooks the Menai Straits. The occupiers said they were concerned at plans to expand student num-

ours stretching back more than 40 years. He was appointed Hunterian Professor by the Royal College of Surgeons in 1953 and for three years served as president of the Alpine Club. He was awarded the Cullum bers which they claimed would hasten the "Anglicisation" of the Medal of the American Geographical Society in 1954, the Livingstone Medal of the Scotcollege by attracting more non-Welsb speaking undergradu-ates. A few days later the files tish Geographical Society in of 3,000 students disappeared 1955 and the Founder's Medal and some were later found by of the Royal Geographical Sopolice in a public lavatory at Diciety in 1956. The author of three books - Eye on Everest (1955), On Climbing (1956) and nas Dinlle, a village on the

Evans's leadership was quespeak (1956), he was knighted in 1969. His wife, Nea, also achieved success as a

Tony Heath

Robert Charles Evans, surgeon, mountaineer and university ad-Wales 19 October 1918; Surgical Registrat, United Liverpool Hospitals and Liverpool Regional
Hospitals 1947-57; Hunterian
Professor, Royal College of Surgeons, England 1953; Deputy
Leader, Mt Everest Expedition
1953; Leader, Kangchenjunga
Expedition 1955; Principal,
University College of North University College of North Wales, Bangor 1958-84; Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales 1965-67, 1971-73; President, Alpine Club 1967-70; Kt 1969; married 1957 Nea Morin (three sons); died Deganwy, North Wales 5 December 1995.

Lavinia Norfolk

Owner, breeder, rider and trainer: Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, Her marriage saw her take a the first Lady of the Garter, wa number of prominent roles outone of the most knowledgeable women in racing. Her associa-tion with the Castle Stables in Arundel, Sussex, is indelible,

of her Moon Madness, trained there by John Dunlop. She was born Lavinia Strutt, non-royal woman to hold such daughter of the third Baron Belper and his wife Eva, later Countess of Rosebery, in London in 1916, and had racing thrust upon her from an early age. Her first influences incinded her stepfather the sixth Earl of Rosebery, a very successful owner and sometime Steward of the Jockey Club, and the wife of the trainer George

thanks partly to the St Leger win

She was a keen hunter and point-to-point rider. Her colours were infamous as they were like those of Lord Derby (black, white cap), only with a cartoon of Mickey Mouse on the front and back. When she became en-gaged to the Duke of Norfolk, Disney wrote to her to say that the company had not given her permission to reproduce the

cartoon character.
She married the 16th Duke in 1937. Her husband became an influential figure in racing administration, a Steward of the Jockey Club and vice-chairman of the Turf Board, and served as the Queen's representative at Ascot for 27 years. The Duchess herself was closely involved with the running of his stables. When their private trainer Victor Gilpin joined the Army in the late 1930s, she played a key role in the training of the horswcren't allowed to hold a

side racing, not least when she stood in for the Queen during rehearsals for the Coronation of King George VI. In 1990 she became the Lord Lieutenant of West Sugger She was the first West Sussex. She was the first a post in Britain. She was also the first Lady Companion of the Order of the Garter in its 640year history, preceding by five years Baroness Thatcher's appointment to the Order in

She did much work for charity. She was Patron of Riding for the Disabled and President of the National Canine League. She once estimated that she had been involved with 150 charities, including Sussex branches of the Association for the Disabled, the Spastics Society, and the Spina Bifida Association. It was in 1942 that the Nor-

folks' horses were first trained in the beautiful surroundings of Arundel Castle, from where John Dunlop has trained since 1966. The first trainer appointed there was Gordon Smyth, who received invaluable assistance from the Duchess.

The best horse to run in the Duke of Norfolk's colours was Ragstone, who helped him achieve a long-term ambition by winning the Ascot Gold Cup in 1974. His victory was thanks in part to tactics drawn up by the Duchess. She knew that Rag-stone was not certain to stay the two-and-a-half-mile trip and so introduced a pacemaker to make sure that Ragstone's pace was slow, rather than the tra-



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Norfolic Mickey Mouse unfor hotograph: Hulton Deutsch

ditional role of a pacemaker ensure a strong, steady galle throughout a race.

As well as Moon Madne the Duchess's best horses i cluded the 1976 Free Handica winner Man of Hartech, an Moon Madness's half-brothe Moon Matthess's har-browner's flaughter Anne (in he own right Lady Herries of Telegles), married to the crickets Colin Cowdrey. Sheriff's Star best performances came who winning the King Edward V stakes at Royal Ascot and th Great Voltigeur Stakes at York

Richard Griffith

Lavinia Mary Strutt, racehors owner and breeder: born Loudo 22 March 1916; President, Na tional Canine Defence Leagu 1969-75; President, Riding for th Disabled 1970-86 (Patron 1986 95); CBE 1971; Lord-Lieutenan of Sussex 1975-90; LG 1990 married 1937 Bernard, 16th Duke of Norfolk (died 1975; fou daughters); died Arundel, Susse 10 December 1995.

Darren Robinson

The current popularity of Pub-tic Enemy, Cypress Hill and the more militant and sensationalist end of the rap scene has rather overshadowed the work of the genre's more populist performers. But the Fat Boys were one of the first rap acts to cross over in a significant way to appearances on television, in movies and in the charts.

The trio's main asset seemed to be Darren Rohinson, who was dubbed the "Human Beat Box" because of the percussive belches, grunts and clicks he could produce with his mouth, Originally called the Disco 3,

Darren Robinson, Mark "Prince Markie Dee" Morales and Damon "Koof Rockski" Wenley came to the manager Charlie Stetler. Given the size of all three performers (Robinson weighed in at an impressive 450lb) and the hotel and restaurant bills he kept getting landed with (the trio were once charged \$350 for

breakfast), Stetler suggested

Fat Boys and go for an all-out gimmicky approach as the cud-dly face of the emerging hip-hop culture. The publicist's ploy worked like a dream but also proved to be the eventual undoing of the group.
After winning a contest in
Brooklyn, the Fat Boys started
to work with the legendary rap-

per and producer Kırıtis Blow who helped them fashion a commerical sound exploiting their image to the full (their first three albums called Fat Boys, The Fat Boys Are Back! and Big and Beautiful, were full of lyrical boasts concerning their gar-

gantuan appetites).
*In 1986, Run DMC crossed over to a much wider audience with a cover of Aerosmith's rock anthem "Rock This Way". On moving to Polydor the following year, the Fat Boys tried a similar tactic with a rap version of the Surfari's "Wipe Out". The record became a hit all over the world, reaching No 2 in the

they changed their name to British charts and No 12 i America while the Crushin' al-bum went gold in the United States).

The Pat Boys were on a rol and repeated the feat in 1988 with another attempt at bridging the generation gap; their up-date of Hank Ballard's "The Twist" (featuring the original hitmaker Chubby Checker) was another UK No 2 and an American Top 20 success.

Mainstream acceptance had hrought in film and television offers and the Fat Boys, who'd already been featured in the Krush Groove documentary, now appeared in Miami Vice and in television commercials. After doing an appoint on three Stooges' comic routines in Disorderlies, they also provided the theme song for one of the

Niektmare on Elm Street movies. However, rap had moved on and the increasingly simmicky output of the Fat Boys seemed out of step with a genre that had become polarised between the Soul and Arrested Development and the gangsta style of Snoop Doggy Dogg and Niggers

With Attitude. On and On (1989) saw the trio attempting to jump on the gangsta bandwagon and its failure accelerated their fall from grace. Prince Markie Dee went solo. Darren Robinson, the Human Beat Box, plunged into obscurity. While some artists rap about crime, Rohinson always said he rapped to make people happy. He will be remembered for bringing a smile to the face of many self-conscious fatties.

Pierre Perrone

Darren Robinson, musician. born 10 June 1967; (one son); died New York 10 December

Mikki Doyle

Mikki Doyle was the Wemen's Editor of the Morning Sur in the days when it had one. "When the feminist movement started the Women's Page was full of the usual shopping, fashion and cosmetics crap," she said. "We got rid of all that." She waged a campaign for women on the paper and raised the consciousness of ber male colleagues to introduce issues of interest to women in its pages. She was determined to get the women's

page out of the ghetto. Doyle was an important participant in founding Women in Media, an organisation which had a lasting effect on contemporary journalism. Her close relationships with "female comrades" as she put it, ranging from the radical Guardian journalist Jill Tweedie to the deyout Catholic the Marchioness of Lothian, was typical of her capacity to "embrace everyone

with a good heart". Mikki Doyle was born Miriam Leventhal in 1916 in New York, uf East European Jewish parents. Her father, a formidable pool player, worked on the Social-Democratic Jewish daily the Forward.

The family was the training-



Doyle: practical feminism

ground for debate when the young Mikki became influenced by Communists and took her views home to her father. Her conversion came about when. aged 16, she met her first husband, an ex-Wobbly English Communist sailor. Her children were born in the Depres-

The Second World War saw her in a variety uf occupations (including that of hus driver), hut hrought the hitter experience of two hrnken marriages. Her life was dominated by intense political activity which in-

sion, the elder when she was 17.

Spanish Civil War to the execution of the Rosenbergs. She took her children on picket lines against racist bosses, and they were raised in a house where "the woman question" was always to the fore. In 1949 she met and married

the Glasgow-born Charlie Doyle, a loving companion until his death in 1983. He was her one-way ticket to Britain when be became the first deportee under the McCarran Act. Mc-Carthy purges had taken him from the leadership of the Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers Union to an Ellis Island prison. Mikki married him by proxy while he was in gaol, then accompanied him to London.

After a couple of years as an industrial worker she entered advertising to supplement Charlie's wages which, as a militant shop steward in the power industry, usually needed supplementing. Her entry, without any training or experience was, she said, "easy, because of years writing political pamphlets and just being an American". After a brief period as trade attache to the new revolutionary Cuba, in 1967 she cluded campaigns from the joined the Communist Morning

Star, then the Daily Worker. She remained with the paper until retirement in 1985. The life of Sojourner Truth, a woman born into slavery, and the genius of the underground slave railway, who suffered bru-

He achieved a string of hon-

tally but never surrendered, was Mikki Doyle's girlhood inspiration. This example of a woman's lifelong struggle against injustice was the standard by which she always judged the issues she faced. This slave heroine also set the twin directions of her obsessions. When she set foot in

Britain, she became immediately indignant at the prejudice and ignorance surrounding the two major questions of racism and the oppression of women. Her long friendship with Claudia Jones, perhaps the most bril-liant hlack Communist activist of her generation, profoundly influenced her.

Her feminism was deep and practical. In the Seventics she was criticised for ber refusal to be anti-man and for her emphasis on economic equality. She was upbraided for exaggerating the racism in British so-ciety. Few would raise such criticisms today.

Most of all, she was a big per-sonality. She could dominate discussion by her simple, some times vulgar and usually funny interventions. She was scathing in her comments on the hypocrisies of English class, but tolerant of human weaknesses and always ready to absolve her many friends of guilt. Marjorie Proops had nothing

on Doyle when it came to homely advice, and young men and women beat a path to her door. She had an internet of telephone friends and contacts. She was an endless source of gossip, and the provider of quick fixes for political hang-ups.
Doyle's disappointment at the collapse of the Communist

world in which she had invested her hopes saddened her in later years. She did not lose her faith in working people, ber belief in Socialism and the ability of women to win equality. Ken Gill

Miriam Leventhal, journalist and activist: born New York 15 January 1916: married-thirdly 1949 Charlie Doyle (died 1983) London 8 December 1995.



Fat Boys (left to right): Damon 'Kool Rockski' Wenley, Darren 'Human Best Box' Robinson, and Mark 'Prince Marke Dee' Morales

Home Secretary's decision on lifer was lawful

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex parte Pierson; Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Hirst); 5 December 1995

The task of determining the pe-

The Court of Appeal allowed the Home Secretary's appeal from Mr Justice Turner (Law Report, 14 November) who had quashed the Home Secretary's decision that the applicant, who was serving two concurrent sentences of life imprisonment, should serve 20 years to satisfy the penal

in 1985 of killing his parents. In 1988 the trial judge and Lord Chief recommended to the Home Secretary that the applicant should serve 15 years as his penal term. However the Home Secretary fixed the

From 1993 the Home Secretary was required to inform prisoners serving mandatory David Parnick QC (Treasury Solici- Home Secretary had no pow-

LAW REPORT

recommendation but he was not ohliged to adopt the judigive reasons for departing from it. The Home Secretary's policy was exceptionally to revise the view of the period where the minimum requirements of retribution and deterrence

was informed that the judicial recommendation would have been appropriate for a single premeditated offence but, because this was a double murder, 20 years was set. After considering representations from the applicant, the Home Secretary accepted that it would be wrong to proceed on the basis that the murders were premeditated and accepted that the two murders were part of a single incident. However his view was that 20 years was

appropriate. Mr Justice Turner quashed the Home Secretary's decision been shown.

life sentences of the judiciary's tor) for the Home Secretary, Edward Fitzgerald QC and Tim Owen (Gra-ham Withers & Co. Shrewsbury) for Sir Thomas Bingham MR, giv-

ing the court's judgment, said that the court was not concerned in deciding the period to be served by the applicant but was concerned to rule on the lawfulness of the decision made in the applicant's case. The decision was made in the Home Secretary's name but it was not legally necessary that it was made by him personally.

It was argued that it was irrational for the Home Secretary to fix the same penal term despite his concession that the aggravating features were absent. However, the Home Secretary's function was not an orthodox sentencing function. The Home Secretary in 1994 did not share the view of his predecessor in 1988 that 15 vears would have been appropriate but for the aggravating features. He thought a longer term was called for anyway. His decision could not he stigmatised as irrational.

It was also argued that the

there was no exceptional circumstance here. In the absence of any curb on the Home Secretary's discretion in section 35 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 the court could not cut down the wide discretion conferred by Parliament by attaching non-statutory conditions not required by procedural fairness to its exercise The Home Secretary had done no more than indicate that the power to increase a penal tern would only be exercise

exceptionally. That could mean no more than that the power to in crease would be exercised by way of exception to the gener al rule that a term once fixe would not be altered. Th Home Secretary had not do fined or restricted the occasion on which he would depart from the general rule and the coucould not do so.

The Home Secretary took more serious view of the cas than did his predecessor. The appeal would be allowed. Th applicant might address an representations he wishe to the Home Socretary. Th court trusted the Home Sed retary to give any such repre sentations fair and carefu

Ying Hai Tan, Barriste

GIBBON: On 4 December, to Amanda (nee Owen) and Michael, a son, William Lloyd Owen, a brother for Julia.

DEATHS

BIRTHS

GARROD: It is with sadness that we announce the death of our beloved men-tor and friend, Mr John Arthur ior and friend. Mr John Arthur Garrod, who was born on 23 Febru-ary 1929 in Portsmouth. He passed away on 7 December 1995, in Cam-bridge, after a protracted illness. He was a kind and sellless man who spent a lot of his life working with children in Africa. Among other achieve-ments, Mr Garrod worked tirelessly to establish the Federal Government College. Maidneyri in Nieseria in College, Maiduguri, in Nigeria in 1973, and ran it until 1981. This fa-therly man will be remembered for his theriv man will be remembered for his total rommitment to promoting unity and respect among people of culturally diverse backgrounds. Mr Garrod was a good man. Until his death, he was Bursar of Clare College. Cambridge University. John Arthur Garrod is survived by his wife Yvonne, his daughter Katherine, and several of his former students, most of whom are now first-class professionals in the field of engineering, medicine, law etc. The funeral is planned for Friday 15 December medicine, law etc. The funeral is planned for Friday 15 December 1995, at 230pm at the Robinson Col-lege Chapel, in Cambridge, Friends, his former students, and other wellwishers are welcome. For further information please contact Yvonne formation piease contact Yvoing Garrod on 01223 332373. or Dt God'will Elokowo on 01233 662864. By the F.G.C.M. Old Boys Associa-tion with the Garrod Family. HAYNES: On 10 December, at the Vic-arage, Lindley, Huddersfield, Mari-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen holds an inventione at Block Palace. The Prince of Vides attends the Bi

Births,

Marriages & Deaths

on Elizabeth, agod 61 years. Treasured wife of Michael and a dear mother to Alison, Vivien, mother-in-law to Ian and Jonathan, and a dear gran to william and George. Requirem mass takes place at All Saints Church, Savile Road, Elland, on Friday 15 December at 1pm, to be followed by a private cremation. No flowers please, but donations in lieu if desired to Lindley Parish Church Building Fund, c/o Mr Courad Willoughby, 8 Edgerton, Huddersfield. STINTON: Frank. After an illness faced with extraordinary courage and irrepressible good humour. Sudden-ly, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, on 3 December 1995, aged 43. Much-loved friend and partner of Nigel and of Tony. Frank's passing leaves an emptiness in our hearts and in our lives that will never be filled. "One crowded hour of glorious life / Is worth an age without a name".

IN MEMORIAM

BURROWS: Donald Ivan, died for years ago today. Much loved and missed husband and father.

Announcements for Ganette BIRTES, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Camada Square, Canary Wharf, Lundon E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faced to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Miss Tracy Austin, tennis player, 35; Mr Lionel Blair, dancer, 64; Maj-Gen Sir Rupert Brazier-Creagh, former Director of Staff Duties, War Office, Se; Mr Will Carling, England rugby captain, 30; Miss Denise Coffey, ac-tress, 59; Mr Jasper Couran, fashion designer, 36; Mr Kenneth Cranham, actor, 51; The Hon Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody MP, 65; Mr William Ebbert, chairman and managing di-rector, Vannhall Motors, 53; Mr Emerson Fittipaldi, racing driver. 49; Miss Connie Francis, singer, 57; Mr Roy Grantham, former national sec-retary, Apex, 69; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Hill, former director, WRAAF, 80; Mr Philip Ledger, Principal, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dames 58; Mc Chester Music and Drama, 58; Mr Christopher Mullin MP, 48; Mr Frank Sinatra, singer, 80; Mr Clive Thornton, chairman, Universe Publications 66; The Right Rev John Wakeling, firmer Bishop of Southwell, 77; Miss Dionne Warwick, singer, 54.

Anniversaries

Barths: Edvard Munch, painter, 1863; Edward G. Robinson (Emanuel Goldenburg), actor, 1893; Jnhn James Osborne, playwright and ac-tor, 1929. Deaths: Robert Browning. poet, 1889; Douglas Fairbanks Sar (Douglas Elton Ulman), actor, 1939; Taliniah Brockman Bankhead, actress, 1968. On this day: the first transatiantic radio signal was transmitted by Marconi, 1901; the first motel opened, in California, United States, 1925; in Britain, conscription was introduced for men aged between 18 and 26, 1948. Today is the Feast Day of St Corentin or Cury, St Ed-burga of Minster, Saints Epimachus and Alexander, St Finnian nf Clonard, St Jane Frances de Char and St Vicelin.

Lectures Victoria and Albert Museum: Divia Patel, "Hindu Art: the depiction of

women", 2.30pm. British Museum: Chris Kirby, "Kom Talin a vanishing Greek settlement of the Fayum", 1.15pm. Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, London No: Carol Michaelson, "The Hotung Gallery: a slide tour of Chinese art", 7.45pm. Professor **Anthony Raine**

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Anthony Raine will take place at 3.30pm on Thursday 18 January, in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew The Great, West Smithfield, London

Dinners Guild of Freemen of the City of

The Lord Mayor of London, Mr John

Chalstrey, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Chalstrey, were the guests of ho-nour at the annual banquet of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London held yesterday evening at Guild-hall, London EC2. The Lord Mayor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, Senior Warden, and Miss Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons, also spoke.

Board of Deputies of British Jews Mr Tony Blair MP, Leader of the Labour Party, accompanied by Mrs Blair, was the guest of honour at a gala dinner held yesterday evening by the Board of Deputies of British Jews at Whitehall Palace, London SW1, in honour of its President, Mr Eldred Tabachnik QC.

12 December 1995

were not satisfied.

nal element of the sentence to be served by a mandatory life prisoner had been entrusted to the Home Secretary under sectinn 35 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, conferring a wide discretion which the court could not curb by attaching conditions ant required by procedural fairness.

element of his sentence. The applicant was convicted

penal element at 20 years.

cial advice and was required to

In August 1993 the applicant

on the basis that exceptional circumstances would be required before the Home Secretary could increase the period and no such circumstances had

consideration.

Richard Branson's biggest product is himself: and his rivals are feeling the force of his personality. Jonathan Glancey reports

The mogul who loves to be loved

When Richard Branson existing companies, but by creating his own from screen bribe to drop his bid to run the National Lottery two years ago by Guy Snowden, a director of GTECH, an American company with a 22 per cent stake in Camelot, it is hard not to side with the bearded and be-jumpered plutocrat.

Why? Because whereas Camelot creams £1m a day running the Lottery, money that slips smootbly into welllined pockets, Branson would have run it entirely as a charity, contributing a further £300m a year to worthy causes nationwide. That's our Richard: the businessman as folk hero, a capitalist Robin Hood froming a £2hn empire, yet fighting those who play the role of the greedy and promiscuous rich to ensure a fair deal and good value for

There are other tempting reasons to back Branson. He has been victim of dirty tricks ocpartments before. In fact, he is still fighting British Airways through the American courts, more than two years after he successfully sued the "world's favourite airline" for gaining transatlantic husiness unfairly at the expense of his

own Virgin Atlantic. He is liked, too, for making it big in business without baving become pompons or having adopted the seemingly mandatory double-breasted suit. He is admired because, unlike so many get-rich-quick British businessmen, he has made his money not hy raiding, stripping or taking over

ating his own from scratch. Starting wilb the publication of Snident magazine in 1968. Branson has moved on, up and through record shops,

recording studios (remember Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells? undercut those of rivals. Branson certainly does; that That's our Richard: the

businessman as folk hero, a capitalist Robin Hood

album made him his first million), music publishing, nightclubs ("The Venue"), computer games, an airline, book publishing, post-production video facilities, condoms, fizzy drinks, vodka, a radio station (Virgin 1215 AM), a design company (with Rodney Fitch). a television station in Mexico . and there's more.

drinks and airlines - Branson invests in mainstream and established husinesses, he does so with energy and panache, offering quality and polished service at prices that

With a personal fortune of £750m or so, he was, at the last count, Britain's ninth richest his proudest boast husinessman, yet manages to maintain his image as a slightly nerdish Jack-the-lad, happy to serve you coffee if he happens to be flying tourist class (which he will) on the same Virgin flight.
Of course, the very size of

increasingly obliged to delegate. Yet it is Branson - his heard, toothsome grin, boyish charm and sense of adventure - we see in all Virgin's doings. Branson is to Virgin what Tony the Tiger is to Frosties or Super Mario is to Nintendo. Without Branson and his frequent appearances in every

conceivable publication from communicate

Hello' to Pilot. Virgin would not just with the husiness

(£35m) of the supermarket world but with the Macarters because the supermarket with the macarters would Virgin with the macarters with the ma Megastores bave captured 25 per cent (£400m) of the and the

UK home entertainment Virgin Cinemas bas

23 per cent (£110m) of the UK cinema husiness now that Branson has acquired the MGM chain for £195m. Virgin Atlantic -- carries more than one in five air passengers (1.7m of them) to and fro between Britain and the

Branson's the Virgin empire means he is remarkable suconly 45 - reflects the growing power of the business communicator. Like Bill Gates: Terence Conran or Anita Roddick he sells being able to

United States.

public too. The key to all his businesses is the Virgin image and his own public charisma. Branson's overt

affability is not all front. He is charming and generous to his staff and they clearly like him. That other husiness leaders admire him is no secret. At the height of the British Airways debacle, the country's top 500 directors voted him the "most outstanding husiness communicator" in the UK. Branson received twice

as many votes as the runner-up, Sir John Harvey Jones, who is no slouch himself. A month later, in November 1993, he was voted the director most small companies would like to have on their board.

The man is rarely out of the news. Here he is (saucy chap) appearing with Pamela Anderson

and Yasmine Blecthe in the 100th episode of Baywatch (conveniently coinciding with the launch of Virgin Energy, a soft drink promoted by Pamela Anderson). Here he is

buying his wife Joan a £2m house in Holland Park as a wedding present; here he is, a few years down the line, sell-ing the same house for a cool When Branson turned the family Range-Rover upside

down on the A40 last June (on the way back from a late-night promotional tennis bash at Planet Hollywood 1, a policeman called to the scene said. "we are certain Mr Branson was not to blame in any way. Sergeant Williams said it all: as if anyone would blame the bearded hoy prankster. There are no flics on Richard Branson: even his accidents are opportunities.

Playing Robin Hood to Lord King's Sherriff of Nottingham has, however, heen Branson's business masterstroke. Since selling Virgin's record business to Thorn EMI for half-a-billion or so in 1992. Branson has pumped at least £115m of his own money into

his airline. He is determined to succeed and in plans just unveiled he has British Air-

ways firmly in his sights. Branson learnt to steal the limelight when he started Virgin Atlantic Airways in 1984. Where Sir Freddie Laker had failed with his transatlantic

No one minds Branson's selfpublicity. Journalists like him and the

Skyrrain (shafted, Sir Freddie believed, and most observers agreed, by competition from, among others. British Airways), Branson was going to

public likes him

"You've got to fight the bastards all the way. Sir Freddie advised Branson. "And, you've got to sue them for all they ve got if they do you down". Most of all, said

Sir Freddie, "you've got to get the public on your side. Branson went "public" in 1984, charming the public into the seats of his second-hand

Self-deprecating charm. however, has not always won he day for Branson. In June 1993 he made a bid to take over Radio 4. Why should a man who made his first million in pop suddenly care about Purcell? "Maybe I am coming into the category of boring old fart," said Branson, then 43, to the Commons Heritage Committee. Joe Ashton, Labour MP and committee member. thought it was more because Branson wanted to push his own records. Others concurred. Branson invested in his own radio station, Virgin 1215, instead. The studio is at the heart of his Oxford Street megastore, so, up to a point. Ashton was right: radio broadcasting and record sales went

hand in Virgin hand. Yet, no one seems to mind Branson's blatant self-publicity. Journalists like him, the public likes him and his simple business philosophy "you don't have to be a bastard to succeed; in fact all bastards fail" cannot fail to win over everyone who has ever fought treacherous rivals (and colleagues) from John Major to Freddic Laker via every one of us. Big business might be a bit like a lottery, but no one likes a bastard getting to the top. And no bastard looks, acis or plays his band like Richard Robin Hood (but bloody rich) Branson.

THE VIRGIN BUSINESS EMPIRE



VIRGIN ATLANTIC

£600m and a 22% share of the

Launched in 1984. Virgin Atlantic Air-

British transatiantic market. The airline carries 169 million passengers

VIRGIN COLA

Launched in November 1994, it akes 79% of the supermarket cola market. Turnover is £35m. Other products in the Virgin Trading Company Group include Virgin Voolka and Virgin Lips

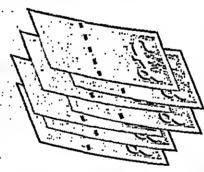


VIRGIN MEGASTORES

The Virgin Megastore concept was Megastore is opened in Carlisle today. The annual turnover in the UK is £400m. The company turns over £7,00m worldwide. Virgin Megastores takes 25% of the UK home entertainment market, 6% worldwide

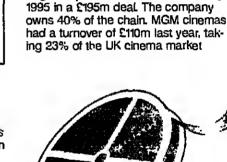


Personal Equity Plans in the nine months since it was launched in March this year, It has so far taken 10% of the PEPs market, selling 30,000 over the phone



VIRGIN RADIO

Established in 1993 Virgin Radio has FM (London and South-east only) takes 4.5% of the market and Virgin AM (nationwide) takes 4.2% of the market. Virgin Radio had a turnover of £10m to July 1995



VIRGIN CINEMAS

Virgin acquired the MGM chain in July

One would think that with all the constant replaying of the 14-year-old archive footage of the Wales's wedding in recent weeks, the BBC might have glanced twice at the household cavalryman interviewed on that ginrious morning. He turns ont in be Captain James Hewitt, he who brought such comfort in later years to the Princess - before proving to be a tutal cad.

In the morning before the Royals go into the church Selina Scott interviews the dashing soldier, resplendent in his glittering hreastplate and military gear. For a few seconds there is a voice-over with him talking about the duties of the Household Cavalry on the great day although, sadly, the incisive Ms Scott did not ask for his predictions on the prospects of the not-so-happy couple, nor his assessment of the bride's attractions-

It seems that ignorance of this clip has cost the BBC financially. When I rang to check it, the librarian was astonished. "But he can't be on it. because once his name cropped up and we needed footage, we couldn't find any. We've had to shoot some

more." I hope Major Hewitt is properly grateful to Engle Eye. No doubt be would prefer to see stills of himself in uniform to the current ones being peddled in the tabloids of him pushing a trolley full of cheap cider.

Tony Blair may or may not be perturbed; but he will not be receiving the united support of the quintessential Champagne socialists, the playwright Harold Pinter and his wite, the writer Lady Antonia Fraser. The couple tamously started a group of like-minded socialist thinkers to support Neil Kinnock

Generation Why

by Tony Reere and Steve Way

SEASONAL SAVER,



seven years ago. But over lunch yesterday they seemed divided as to Blair's merits. "I am a Blairite," said Lady Antonia. "I'm not such a Blairite as Antonia is," retorted Pinter. "In fact, I'm hardly a Blairite

Lady Antonia added: "I now have considerable unease about showhusiness personalities speaking up for political parties. I would personally like to meet the unemployed voting person who has never voted Labour hut when be saw Madonna voting Labour, he decided to." Her husband was astounded - and not just because Madonna is American. "Show husiness?" he queried, aghast. "Surely we are the arts.

Civil servants at the Government's Benefits Agency have received a heartfelt and highly confidential written plea from their chief executive, Peter Mathison. "Like all large organisations, there may be occasions where staff feel they have genuine concerns over practices, procedures and situations they view as inefficient, unfair or improper. This does not, however, justify the subsequent disruption and effect on the morale of colleagues that taking

any such concern to the media entails This letter is to remind staff of their responsibilities as civil servants and of the proper channels through which any grievance should be aired." In other words, don't leak however onhappy you may be. I regret that unhappiness at the Benefits Agency

I HATE CHRISTMAS.

EVERYTHING'S A RIP-OFF.

AND THE RAILWAY'S

THE WORST.

EVERYWHERE'S CROWDED.

appears to be so rife that this "don't leak" letter has been speedily leaked.

The launch of the International

Interfaith Centre at the Athenaeum club was a sombre occasion, as befits an enterprise led by figures so emment as the Prince of Wales, the Bisbop of Oxford, and the Dalai Lama. But when Bishop Charles Henderson, chairman of the Roman Catholic Committee for Other Faiths, got up to speak, to everybody's surprise he told the following joke:

There are three men in a hospital and the doctor asks each of them what they think is the best invention of the 20th century. The first replies: 'Heart transplants because otherwise it would have been curtains for me'. The second replies: 'Kidney transplants because otherwise it would have been curtains for me.' And the third replies: 'Venetian blinds because otherwise it would have been curtains for all of us."

In secular circles this is a reasonable joke. In spiritual circles it is hysterical. The audience was rolling in the aisles. "I wanted to get it in before Rahhi Hugo Gryn did," the bishop explained yesterday. "I had to take my chance because t was speaking before him. Normally, he gets a story in before me."

Unfortunately, the hisbop then tather spoilt it by trying a little too hard to explain the jokc. 'It is meant to show how things can be misunderstood and misinterpreted,"

Jane Austen may have few equals when it comes to social observation. irony and romance, but she was hopeless on foot massaging. You can search through the entire ocuvre. I gather Emma Thompson has

WOW, I TAKE IT ALL

BACK! NINE POUNDS

SIXTY-FIVE, VERY



Novel feat: Thompson and Winslet

rectified this nmission. In her film adaptation of Sense And Sensibility, which opens next February, Miss Thompson as Elinnr Dashwood and Kate Winslet as her sister Marianne lie in bed together playing footsie - presumably the sort of thing that passed for entertainment in the days before television - until Marianne

complains that Elinor's feet are too cold. Name of this in the book, of Perhaps Miss Thompsoo has been following the hizarre correspondence in the London Review of Books about with her sister Cassandra. Or

whether Austen berself shared a bed perhaps Emma felt that the novelist needed a bit of spicing np. As Ms Thompson noted in her diary about the making of the film: "Kissing Hugh (Grant) was very lovely. Glad I invented it. Can't rely oo Austen for a snog, that's for sure."

Eagle Eye

Time balls

AARG!



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*According to a recent MOR poll, conducted in August '95. 687 people Interviewed

DECIMAL POINTS

FAILURE . SORRY.

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Someone worth calling mayor

Margaret Thatcher's premiership, in the way that she dominated both the executive and legislature, made her more presidential than any other peacetime British leader. Tony Blair, it seems from today's interview published opposite, intends to follow her example. We can expect him to focus attention and power on himself. Under him, prime minister's questions would be held once rather than twice a week, with the premier answering questions in prearranged sub-ject areas. The event would be intended to promote grown-up, dignified politics cool hut tough questioning - and reduce the traditional tendency for ahusive exchanges in the Commons hear pit.

Mr Blair's plans for local government

are more radical. He would introduce directly elected mayors, breaking with the British tradition that governmental chief executives - be they prime ministers or council leaders - are elected by legislative representatives (MPs or councillors).

He is not the first serious politician to out forward this proposal in recent years. It is no coincidence that it was first championed by Michael Heseltine, that other presidential figure in British politics, who in the mid-Eighties sought to reinvigorate local government.

The mayoral system is familiar across the Atlantic and in many European countries. Every American city has its elected mayor, with specific powers and responsibilities which do not require the endorsement of elected councillors. The same is true in France, where mayors have real powers that can turn them into national figures, Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, remains mayor of Bordeaux. Jacques Chirac gave up being mayor of Paris only when he was elected President. This new system, though foreign to Britain, offers a potential cure for the morihund nature of local government, At

oames of their councillors, would be able to identify a single individual – a Mr Lon-don or Ms Sheffield – as responsible for the quality and cost of services. Such mayors would enjoy a serious mandate and their presence would make councils more transparent and accessible. A mayor would also have the authority to resist the intrusive tendencies of central government.

In theory at least, this system could allow candidate to circumvent, Ross Perotstyle, the tyranny of British political par-ties which have such a stranglehold over councils. This is born out by a recent poll indicating that Richard Branson, rather than a party figure, would be the people's favourite for mayor of London (followed, incidentally, by Ken Livingstone). Opening up politics in this way would be pro-gressive: when élites are ahle to run a closed shop, they inevitably become com-placent and degenerate. In Britain, the pro-fessionalisation of politics has produced a breed of leaders at local and national level who often seem out of touch. The decline of parties has progressively reduced the pool of available talent from which our political leaders can be chosen.

It is worth remembering, however, that mayoral systems are open to corruption and one-party rule. There are plenty of examples of machines control-ling American cities: the Daley family has turned Chicago into a fiefdom. And Marion Barry, the mayor of Washington who was jailed on drugs charges and then re-elected, is no advertisement for the probity of the office.

In short, it would be naïve to conclude that introducing city mayors would alone prevent the monopolisation of power by some of the incompetents that have run a number of councils in recent years. But the Heseltine-Blair idea could offer a route to a more accountable system that would put voters back in the driving seat last voters, who rarely know even the of local government.



Greenpeace has been deprived of a over the price we have to pay for gas. Meanwhile, if the world isserious about the world is world in the world in the world is world in the world in th Hinkley C, two new nuclear power stations that the Government had been planning, will not now be huilt. After a long feasibility study, they are no longer considered financially viable.

The truth is that neither the Government nor the private sector is willing to spend hillions of pounds huilding new power stations when they are unlikely to make profits for at least 10 years.

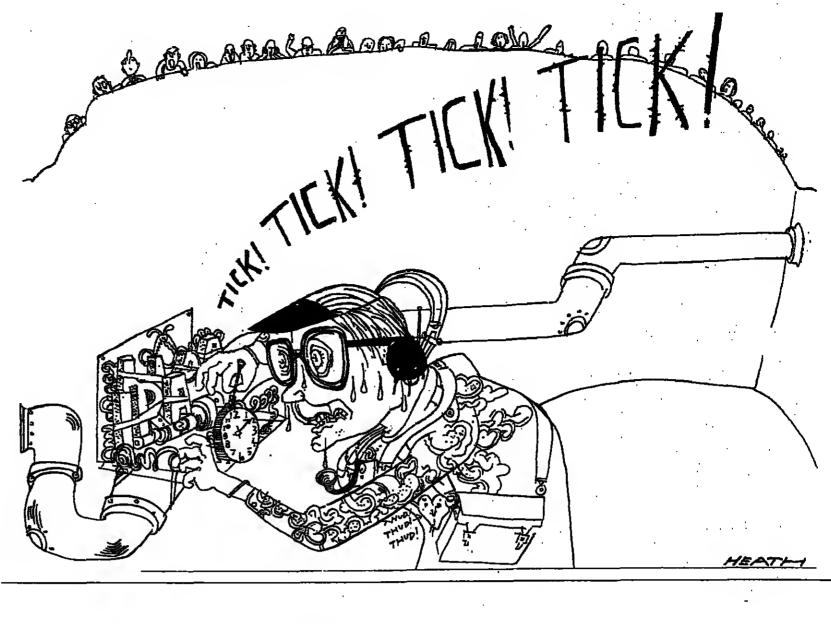
Both the public and private sectors have one good reason for closing their wallets. It is quite possible that the Sizewell and Hinkley plants would never make enough profit to justify the initial investment. Alternative forms of power such as gas - may be much cheaper for decades to come. Indeed, few people predicted how low gas prices have turned out to be in the Nineties, or how plentiful gas

supplies have become. However, there are strong reasons to believe that new nuclear power stations will in time prove to be an essential and ultimately profitable venture. The dash for gas may make economic sense right now, but if we don't maintain alternative forms of power Britain could eventually become extremely dependent on the gas sheikhs of the next century. When the North Sea gas reserves are depleted, those who control the Trans-Siberian pipeline may wield considerable power

Meanwhile, if the world is serious about tackling global warming, it must reduce carbon dioxide emissions. So alternatives to gas-fired power stations will be needed all over the world. Nuclear generation is therefore likely to he vital in the 21st century. New nuclear power stations will have to be huilt in Britain. And when nuclear power plants are planned for countries such as China, British industry will have a better chance of picking up the contracts if we have recent experience of building

our own modern versions. The abandonment of the Sizewell and Hinkley Cs really amounts to shorttermism. From the City's point of view, these nuclear power stations are not a good investment. After all, private investors are used to picking up the profits within five years at relatively low

Sadly, the Government has failed to inject a long-term perspective either, despite the fact that the investment is in the national interest. It will provide neither direct investment nor incentives to encourage private-sector cash. Sizewell C and Hinkley C were making privatisation of the nuclear industry difficult. So they had to go. Tax cuts funded by privatisation proceeds are clearly a greater priority than protecting our supplies of energy. Giving up on Sizewell C and Hinkley C is a decision we may all live to regret.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Charles and Diana: both committed to helping young people | Denial: abuse

From Mr E. H. Salmon Sir: Your editorial "The Queen of Hearts turns up trumps" (7 December) claims that the Prince of Wales lacks the common touch, but shows an almost wilful disregard for the range of his charitable interests. The Prince's Trust, the Prince's Trust Volunteers, and the Prince's Youth Trust have the shared aim of helping young people who face disadvantages of many different kinds in our society.

The prince is the founder active president of these trusts, whose record is impressive and insufficiently acknowledged by the media. Whenever he is on his travels, he makes a point of spending time with young people, understanding their concerns and showing great interest in their achievements. This is very much appreciated by all who meet him.

Because of his position, the prince's public statements may have to be less forceful that Princess Diana's hut there is no doubt that they are both committed to helping, in whatever and derision in the press and pro- Wales's speech to the housing 8 December

Diet of untruths?

Sir: As a linguist concerned with

the influence of language on cul-

tural behaviour, I have an obser-

vation regarding the genesis of

It is widely acknowledged that the bovine form of this disease

originated with the feeding to cat-

tle of products composed largely

of the remains of other animals.

It is noteworthy that these poten-

tially, and now actually, contro-

versial feedstuffs were commonly

marketed under such descriptive

names as "meal", "nuts" and

"cake", all terms which stress a

lack of any relation to meat or

animal products. It seems likely

that the manufacturers of these

feeds were at least aware of pos-

sible public disgust, if not poten-

tial risks, involved in feeding

products containing processed

the current BSE controversy.

From Mr J. A. Shelley

way they can, young people whose experience of problems such as homelessness, unemployment, and racial discrimination, give them little hope for the future.

Yours faithfully, E. H. SALMON London, SE22 11 December

From Miss A. M. S. Hutton-Wilson

Sir: While the backdoor methods of achieving the Princess of Wales's Panorama interview were regrettable, the programme left me with a feeling of hope. As your leading article indicated, we are indeed witnessing the emergence of a new-style monarchy, but it will need nurturing.

More credit should be given to Prince Charles whose courageous forays into personal expression on public matters paved the way for Princess Diana. If he sounds diffident and now "appears remote and isolated", it is largely because his efforts were met with scorn

carcasses to animals hiologically

Interested parties - and one

might include political parties -

are all too often tempted to

abuse language for their own ends. Members of the public

would do well to be aware of this when making vital judgements concerning their own health.

adapted to consume only veg-

etable matter.

Yours faithfully,

Yours faithfully,

7 December

From Professor I. C. Shaw Sir: A thought for the Prime Min-

ister, who said today that there is

no scientific evidence that BSE and

CJD are linked. Before gravity was

demonstrated, there was no scien-

tific evidence for its existence.

Hambleton, Lancashire

I A SHELLEY

Cupar, Fife

vided an easy butt for satire. He is, in fact, the bridge between old and new, deeply rooted in tradition, yet also espousing views ahead of their time. It is not surprising he envies the recep-tion accorded to his wife. He really "cares" too.

The kind of monarchy embodied by the senior members of the Royal Family suited their time and served us well. The emphasis should now be on encouraging a healthy evolution, not division and rivalry.

Charles and Diana each offer a valuable contribution to society and the media should support them both as they explore new Yours etc.

A. M. S. HUTTON-WILSON Evercreech, Somerset

From Ms Liz Lynne, MP Sir: I think it is unwise for royalty to be appearing to support a political party by sharing a platform with one of its representatives (report of the Princess of charity Centrepoint, 8 December). But it is strange that everyone thinks that the princess is supporting the Labour Party when, in fact, that party has no policy in restoring benefit rights to 16-18 year-olds, despite the absence of such benefit rights being a contributory factor in the cause of homelessness and insecurity among young people. Yours sincerely,

LIZ LYNNE MP for Rochdale (Lib Dem) House of Commons London, SW1

11 December The writer is Liberal Democrat. Social Security and Disability spokesperson.

From Mrs Marjorie Crossley Sir. I wonder if Princess Diana is hoping to revive "slumming", which was a popular occupation for idle wealthy young women in the Victorian era. Yours sincerely, MARJORIE CROSSLEY Cambridge

From Dr Richard Dawkins

Sir: Let's charitably assume that

your education correspondent,

Fran Abrams, was joking when

she called it "wholesome" if

Oxford and Cambridge students

are turning to religion ("Oxbridge's hard-working stu-

dents turn to ecstasy", 11 December). But she really ought to know better than to draw this

conclusion from the evidence provided. Of course the Bible would be likely to secure the

largest single vote for favourite

book. What other single book

This does not mean that a

majority of students read the

Bible (a majority might prefer comics, but if their loyalties are

divided among Dandy, Beano and 20 others, you'd get exactly the result reported). Nor do the

figures quoted support the sug-

sted trend towards religiosity-

although this would not be too

surprising, if the alleged doubling

in the number trying Ecstasy since the tragic death of a young

woman from the stuff were a reli-

able indicator of the necessary

stupidity. But this, too, may be

unduly pessimistic. Percentages are notoriously pernicious if

quoted without the absolute

numbers.

Oxford

11 December

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD DAWKINS

could possibly have done so?

Yours faithfully, MARJORIE ORR London, NW3

> From Ms Angela Davies Sir. Angela Lambert's account of parents accused of child abuse "Guilty until proven innocent", 7 December) was ill thought-out. While deeming the Boots employee who contacted police in the Somerville case "(no doubt) well-

ately to the requirements of his The link between the cases of Ms Somerville and her partner and the Skitts was also rather tenuous. The latter are involved in an undoubtedly distressing case of abuse accusations by their daughter, who possibly suffers from the psychological disorder False Memory Syndrome. The former were investigated, never

naked child. Yes, we have had Cleveland, Rochdale and the Orkneys. But we also have many children who suffer in silence because no one wants to step in. It seems ironic that after the broubaha over the West case, someone who had the courage to take direct action can be vilified. It is far better that some innocent parents are embarrassed than any innocent child suffers the agonies of sexual or physical abuse.

ANGELA DAVIES

In sport, personalities take a running jump

See who won the British Sports Personality of the Year award, then? Frank Bruno, wasn't it?

Oh. Who was it? Jonathan Edwards. Who's Jonathan Edwards? British Sports Personality of the

Good! And who was he before that? He was plain old Jonathan Edwards. And what sort of a personality does he have?

He has the sort of personality that makes you want to run down a track. then hop, skip and jump. Well, it makes him want to do it anyway. And that's what he does?

That's what he does. Further than anyone else in the world. Great. What else does he do? Nothing else. Nothing?

Well, nothing out of the ordinary. Eating, drinking, reading a few books. Sends Christmas cards, I expect. And he's a great personality, is he? Sure. He's British Sports Person-

ality of the Year, after all. What do you have to do to be a personality in sport? You have to be the best at your

Being best at the hop, skip and jump? They like to call it the triple jump.



MILES KINGTON

But it's really the hop, skip and jump?

And nobody in Britain gave a damn about it before, because we weren I very good at it, and if you asked anyone who was the previous world record-holder they wouldn't know, would they?

But now Jonathan Edwards is world champion we're very interested in the spon?

No. We are still totally uninterested in it. But we are interested in Jonathan Edwards now.

Because of his personality?

Are there any people in sport with interesting personalities? Yes. They are called commentators. They have interesting personalities? Compared with many sportsmen. Are there any sportsmen with inter-

esting personalities? Not until they retire. Magically, many so-called sports personalities have no discernible personality at all. until they leave the sport and go on TV and radio, when they hlossom. Good heavens. Like who?

lan Botham, Bill Beaumont, Henry Cooper, Gary Lineker, Alan Hansen ... Is Alan Hansen that roguishly goodlooking man with the Scots twang on 'March of the Day'?

That's him. Good heavens. Was he a footballer in a previous life?

Certainly was. The point is that all these guys developed personalities after they left the game. Having a personality while you're still in the game does nothing for you at all, except make you easier to imitate.

Pardon? I was thinking of Chris Eubank, who cleverly manufactured his own personality while still in boxing, with monocie and all, whereas Nigel Bean didn't. You might say that Benn was the better boxer; on the other hand, if an impressionist did an impression of Nigel Benn, nobody knew who it was meant to be. So Chris wins on points. Well, if personality has nothing to do with it, why is it called the British Sports

Personality of the Year Award? Because sport desperately wants to be part of showbiz and knows it can't be. All competitions that are genuinely in the entertainment and personality world, like the comedy, pop and drama awards, don't have word personality in the title. That's because the winners all have personality guaranteed. So why mention it? You don't call Hugh Grant the Acting Personality of the Year. You don't give prizes for being Political Personality of the Year. You assume that the Parliamentarian of the Year already has a personality. In sport you can assume no such thing, so you build it into the title.

I see ... Everyone thought that Frank Bruno was going to win, didn't they? Does he have a personality? Oh, yes. He's nice, he smiles a lot and he used to say "Harry" a lot.

Does that count as a personality? In sport it does. So why didn't he win? He already had a job in panto. He

didn't need it. Will Jonathan Edwards get a part in panto?

Sure. He's now playing Puss in Boots at Wimhledon. He wears the magic three-league boots. He comes on one side, jumps and clears the entire stage and vanishes the other side. Is that true?

No, but who would be surprised if it were? That's what British sport is

When students turn to Jesus

From Mr Hugh Griffiths Sir: Fran Ahrams ("Students

come clean with change of image", 11 December) writes: Today's Oxbridge students list Jesus Christ and their own parents as their greatest heroes, the Bible as their favourite book and going to church among their favourite leisure activities. And, if that were not bad enough ...

What is it about Christianity and Christian belief that you find so objectionable? Are people supposed to be antagonistic to Jesus and to loathe reading the Bible - and if they do like these things, does this make them somehow less than acceptable?

Some of the values that your paper espouses (which include among them respect for people and the provision of a caring society) are exactly what the Christian faith proclaims as the way we should live. It is a great shame that your news articles and editorial content are so often coloured by the view that relationships are only of concern to the individual and there is no impact on others resulting from the "liberal" use of sex and drugs in their lives. Yours sincerely,

HUGH GRIFFTTHS New Malden, Surrey

Greer's premise From Mr Douglas Rimmer

Sir: Germaine Greer ("Engr. Inu, do you take me for a fool?", 8 December) writes of being defrauded, she believes, of £20 by a Nigerian youth in London, I, tno. have been implored to pay the fares to distant places of people claiming to be stranded in London. However, these supplicants were British, so far as I could judge.

Germaine Greer has also received from Nigeria a letter inviting her to join in a husiness transaction which, with good reason, she believes to be fraudulent. Although many people have received such letters from Nigeria, I have not. But, like

many others, I have been advised by British companies of winning prizes, as a condition of listening to sales promotions for timeshare apartments, and these prizes have turned out to be worthless. And, like many others, I have been urged by British workmen to contract repairs to my house which I believe to be

What, then, are we to deduce from Germaine Greer's article that, in order to denigrate a whole people on the strength of a small number of personal experiences, it is necessary to begin with a wish to denigrate that people? Yours faithfully, DOUGLAS RIMMER Birmingham

repeated

From Ms Marjorie Orr

Sir. Angela Lambert was given a good deal of inaccurate information on recovered memory of abuse. Many children of "False Memory Society" parents never forget, yet are still portrayed by their denying parents as victims of brainwashing therapists. Rep-utable studies show that forgotten sexual abuse is often recalled outside therapy, and can frequently be corroborated.

Entirely contrary to the claim of Roger Scotford, director of the British False Memory Society, that "86 per cent of confronted parents admit", child abusers are notorious and plausible liars even in the face of overwhelming evidence. Very far from being publicity seeking, the "False Memory Society" adult children have not had their stories told in a media that has given denying parents an almost free ride.

Accuracy About Abuse 10 December

meaning", ber overall sympathy is with Ms Somerville, not with the employee who acted appropri-

accused, after a third party acted on witnessing evidence of possible abuse - ie, photographs of

Yours faithfully,

London, SW16 8 December

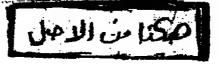
A job for the FBI

From Mr Paul Bakker Sir: Glad to hear that the Duchess of York will get her jewels back. Next summer we're visiting the US for the first time.

We find it very reassuring to know that if one of our bags goes missing after being checked in, the full resources of the FBI will be brought to bear in its recovery. Yours,

PAUL BAKKER Orton Wistow, Cambridgeshire 6 December

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are mable to ack unpublished letters. Back issues of the Independent are available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 906609.



Dreams broken on the streets of Paris

European History is happening too slowly to notice. We become hogged down in acronyms, endless abstract debates about institutions, all the bureaucratic blather and hogwash of today's Europe. Our eyes glaze; our minds wander. Is this the birth of a new super-state or the death of a dream? Who knows? But concentrating on it is like trying to watch a butterfly

Did other great turning-points in political destiny have the same anaesthetising effect on those who lived through them? Did newspaper readers in Rhode Island and Boston yawn as they flipped yet another wearisome report of the confederalists' latest proposals in Philadelphia? Did voters in Munich and East Prussia shrug at the windy garrulity of the National Socialists in the Reichstag and make aucient jokes about the pointlessness of politicians?

Previous crises have at least been tinged by violence or the threat of violence. Dying soldiers and smashed glass tend to concentrate the least political of minds. This time, as we try to focus on yet another European summit, to recall what the "reflection group" is up to and whose proposals on QMV will dominate the agenda for the IGC, we have only had the Parisian riots

real, European-style violence. But at least the workers of France have

snapped their fingers. We need to hear Ihem. For we are at a turning-point, even if the corner is gentle and long. After half a century of chugging quietly towards a certain idea of European unity, the realisation is spreading that we may not get these. that we may not get there. Not soon. Not ever.

And the reason is straightforward - the power of the global economy. Up to now, there has been a vague equation in the minds of European voters between the notion of European union and prosperous modernity. The federal project unfolded alongside the creation of European welfare states, the regulation of labour markets and the transforming effect of post-war prosperity. During good times, voters don't much care what their leaders are scheming, so long as for them life ripens.

The arrival of freer world trade, Asian century kills this cosy equation. The lethal connection is monetary union, declared to be the next and cuts. stage of European union. Once. perhaps, that could have been accomplished through a grand European-wide Keynesian institution, coupled with equally widewe have only had the Parisian riots spread welfarism. But these days which could withstand the malign lo make us stop and think. This isn't monetary union has to be on the

For most Europeans, the federalist project has long been synonymous with progress. Now the implications of monetary union are forcing a radical rethink

orthodox bankers' terms. Nobody in power dissents from that proposition and, indeed, it is written in letters of fire into the Maastricht

Monetary union on these terms is incompatible with the continued levels of welfare, industrial subsidy and government borrowing to which a vast swathe of the European middle class is accustomed. The link between federalism and voter-gratification is broken for public-sector workers and pensioners, as it had already hroken for farm workers.

Suddenly, the next stage of political union is rasping against the self-interest of millions of voters at the heart of Europe. Once the Comentirely mobile capital and the munity seemed synonymous with security and wealth. Now the federal destiny demands insecurity

There is a grim helly-laugh to be wrung out of all this. Part of the motivation for European union, particularly in France, was that it would huild a political Europe



The federal destiny demands

ANDREW MARR Columnist of the Year

insecurity and cuts

Anglo-American capitalism. Yet here is the EU itself acting as the bridgehead for that orthodoxy. Have the harbarians entered the temple? No, worse still - the priests have converted to barbarism!

British Tories shouldn't laugh too hard, however. For the other side of the coin is that all the things

tuous and more important than monetary union (cutting deficits. honestly facing up to demographic pressures on welfare hudgets, and so on) are being driven forward on the Continent by the allegedly irrelevant Maastricht timetable.

What a mess. Reforms which the British took from Thatcher hecause she argued that they were good for Britain might have been accepted by the French on the grounds that they are good for France. They are far harder to sell on behalf of an abstraction like the Maastricht process. And if this is how France reacts, what is coming elsewhere? The architects of union may live to rue the day that they linked monetary orthodoxy so tightly to cross-horder fraternity.

Keynes famously said: "When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do?" Prudence would timetable for monetary union into abeyance. The single currency would be declared something that would he delivered when there was seem compelling to continental

way round.

Prudence would do this - but the French, German and other key countenance such an embarrassing U-turn. They are politicians of the will, not of opinion polls. So at Madrid they will turn, instead, to the enormous question of what to call the new currency. Enjoy, boys.

If it happens according to the timetable (and I believe it won't), monetary union is likely further to alienate continental voters from their rulers and to drive a wedge herween the inner core who go ahead and the rest. As French voters took the strain, the consequences would surely include a surge of support for Le Pen's National Front and the other anti-Maastricht politicians of left and right. What would that do for Franco-German relations?

Meanwhile, this troubled core Europe would face competitive devaluation from the nations encircling it, leading to worsening political relations between the two groups. Would it lead, in the end, hold an early summit to revise the Maastricht treaty and put the Though Sir James Goldsmith's polemics on the need for European protectionism have cut little ice in London, they may start to

their voters rather than the other their post-war social contracts. And, in case there be the faintest whiff of British self-congratulation detectable here, let us remember governments are most unlikely to that these are not nightmares from which London can blandly request an opt-out. Today British Conservatism celebrates the effects of devaluation and freedom from European social legislation, coupled with all the henefits of European free trade and the inward investment that full membership of the EU hrings. And that isn't sustainable.

What is lacking is any alternative model to the implacable federalism of the post-war dream, or the smugly rejectionist politics of Britain. For me, the answer is a confederal Europe, in which a smaller hut powerful central authority oversaw trade, basic human rights, environmental and some security issues. while everything else was reserved as "nation-states' rights" Europe that was a place in which to

live and trade, not a new country. That kind of union may happen. though conversation about it has harely started. Before it does, we are likely to go through a time of political crisis in which the old order is threatened, challenged and messily dislodged. And perhaps this crisis has already begun; when European History speeds up, it pressure on the politicians from politicians struggling to retain tends to start on the streets of Paris.

How to revive top-quality democracy

Tony Blair is worried that people are going off politics in a big way. Hence the new ideas he revealed to Donald Macintyre

For an Opposition leader enjoying a 25-point poll-lead, Tony Blair is remarkably focused on the proposition that there is "still a lol to do" before an election that could yet be 16 months away. In Club Class al 35,000 feet, en route to a snowbound Vienna to lend to the Austrian Chancellor's election campaign a little lustre, Mr Blair is visibly lense about the tasks ahead for his party.

While he mocks the Tory high command for the apparent

Labour will need to guard against cynicism among the electors

"sense of decay, a fin de siècle air" that he claims hangs over the Government, he is also keenly aware that in this strange period of electoral phoney war Labour could have problems maintaining its own momen-tum. And here his own legendary lack of complacency comes to the rescue: new Labour has to "deepen its message". While he says, correctly, that some among the "chattering classes" may be bored with the "new Labour, new Britain" theme, the public at large is "still coming to terms with it, still getting used to it". And he suggests that in the coming months Labour will need to guard with equal vigour against cynicism among the electors and complacency within the

Though he doesn't say so, you can detect a hint of frustration that he has not been given the credit by UK commentators that he already gets abroad for shaping what he sees as a new, coherent, threesided ideology for Labour. When you point out that the similarly clear ideological map Margaret Thatcher drew for herself in opposition between left. Second, there is a "one 1975 and 1979 was coloured in nation" approach to social by some eye-catching policies such as the sale of council houses, he says, almost impa-tiently, that was there will be more headline-making policies, but that should not detract from the clarity of his overall mission. He recaps on the three-sided approach. First, in the economic sphere, it is about equipping people and business for massive ... technological change", which he distin-



Tony Blair: 'I'm very worried about the calibre of people going into politics at every level'

guishes from both the "rampant laisser-faire" doctrines of the new right and the "centralised economic planning" of the old left. Second, there is a "one cohesion, based on reform of the welfare state, "rebuilding strong public services" and confronting the problem of "an underclass set apart from the rest of society". He again makes the distinction: this is neither new right "indifference to social hreakdown" nor the old left's

spending and rights without responsibilities. And the third element is a

limitless expansion of public

"new politics" to bring government "closer to the people" which contrasts with the right's hostility to constitutional change and the old left's addiction to all-

powerful central government.
It is about the third of these how to change the very nature of British party politics - that Mr Blair is keenest to talk today. But just how solid are his credentials here? After all, the Commons is still a bear-garden, and Labour-LibDem co-operation is in one of its grumpily sluggish phases - not least because the Labour leader himshift from his position that he is

"not persuaded of the case" for Commons electoral reform. Indeed, it is like stripping paint with your bare fingernails to get the Labour leader to expand on how he would handle the commitment inherited from John

Smith to hold a referendum on proportional representation. Mr Blair clearly believes that since there is such a large constitutional agenda on which Labour's goals are shared with the Liberal Democrats, the "understandable" importance Paddy Ashdown's party attaches to PR should not be allowed to become a barrier. But he does

might proceed on a PR referendum. And it stems from the formula he has now adopted on the matter of a referendum on monetary union. Were an Emu referendum to take place under a Labour government, Mr Blair maintains, he would not allow any breach of collective Cahinet responsibility, no repeat of 1975, when Harold Wilson permitted Cabinet ministers to campaign according to their own views on European membership.

What, then, about a PR referendum? "It could be argued that PR is a slightly different case because there has been an give the faintest hint of how he ongoing debate in the party

and many positions have been

And as Prime Minister he himself would take a view when the time came. Ever cautious, he stressed the party was nowhere near a decision on this; but it just might mean that Mr Blair would allow Robin Cook and other Cahinet colleagues who supported PR to campaign for it, even he personally was against it.

Nevertheless, this still leaves the question of what's new on

Directly elected mayors could inject life into local government

the political reform flank, over and above the admittedly daunting programme of constilutional change that Mr Blair inherited from his predecessors? Well, two issues certainly are, key proposals in the areas of local government and the workings of Parliament itself.

At the centre of his thinking on the Commons is a genuinely radical transformation of Prime Minister's Question Time from its twice weekly, 15-minute role of purveyor of ready-made confrontational soundbites to the TV networks, into a cooler, longer (half-hour), once-weekly session that actually adds to the sum of political knowledge.

Some questions, or general subject areas, would be notified in advance to encourage more informative replies, but MPs, including the Opposition leader. would retain the opportunity to ask impromptu searching questions on topics of the day There needs to be an acceptance that questions should gen-uinely hold ministers to account

and elicit information." He points out that at present most of the questions put to gov-ernment ministers by their own side, especially at Prime minister's Ouestion time, are actually about the Opposition. "It's not that you are not going to be able to ask hard questions but there is all the difference between hard questioning and personally abusive exchanges," he says.

In other words a changed system won't necessarily give a Prime Minister an easier ride; rather, a more publicly edifying one. In this respect Mr Blair is going much further than the Commons Select Committee on Procedure's current proposway that politics develops." als for reform of Question This emphasis on political Time. So what about local councils? He is passionate when he says he is a "hig believer" in the revival of local government.
"which at its best is highly effective and highly imaginative."

The stripping of councils' responsibilities have "tragically" put many people off even con-sidering becoming councillors.

But Mr Blair is clearly warming to a proposal that, he believes. could inject real life into local government though it may annoy many councillors. This is background as Mayor of Paris and the importance of hig city mayors in the United States. essential that you have people of high calibre in all parts of the

political firmament. And this is very much part of Mr Blair's pitch: "I'm very worried about the calibre of people going into every level of politics. It's not surprising people go off politics. A large majority of people, Labour and Tory, come into politics for good and decent motives. But the process is harming the

change is very much of a piece with what Mr Blair increasingly argues differentiates him from one-nation Tories, as well as those on the new right. Although there may be some overlap in ideas. Labour, he maintains, has given the political centre a "new ideology", and stands for transformation and renewal; while one-nation Conservatives however commendably - are about conserving, in all spheres from the welfare state to the political process.

mayors. It is, he says, referring ally the whole Labour Party is explicitly to President Chirac's tuning into the B'ildemess Years. BBC TV's series on the party's long march back to electability. Mr Blair believes this series will, for most party members. help to validate the changes made under his leadership. But he is characteristically wary of what he thinks may be the conclusion to the series: "If the final thesis is, as I expect it will be, that we've betrayed everything for power, that's intellectually very sloppy." And as he flew hack from Vienna last night, he seemed supremely confident of proving it wrong.

ANOTHER VIEW Simon Mayo

The blasphemy is to settle for a Nativity that has lost its meaning

Here is a story that many people found blasphemous: a stronge otherwordly creature visits a woman called Mary to tell her she is going to have God's baby and he will

save the world. Two miliennia later, many people don't find this story blasphemous, they just find it dull. For many people the original story of Christmas has been told and retold so many times that its meaning has been completely obscured. A new meaning has been found - cards, television, alcohol,

A radio programme that I am pre-

senting for Christmas Eve on Radio One has been attacked by members of both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church as "offensive" and "disgusting". Notwith-standing the small fact that these outraged critics had only been reading draft samples of a leaked script, they were decided: the programme had to be stopped.

In fact, the "cartoon nativity" - as the 18-minute drama we are producing has been duhbed - is not quite as reported. True, Joseph - or Joey, as Mary calls him - is a bad carpenter, the angel Gabriel is a camp New Yorker, and the Innkeeper has got a problem with Mad Cow Disease. But m our version - whalever her reactions to these momentous events at the time - Mary does not swear at Joseph and is not "demeaned". She is portrayed as an ordinary human being with an unusually momentous calling. but then most theologians would concur with that.

Whenever the Nativity story has been taken from one medium into another, especially when it is laced with humour, the religious establishment has declared a state of emergency. As long ago as the late Middle

Ages, with the Wakefield and York Mystery plays, humour has played an essential part in making the old story

While I have my doubt that God needs bodyguards, least of all in the form of blasphemy laws in a pluralistic, religiously diverse society like ours, it seems to me that the real blasphomy is to settle for a Christmas story that has lost all power to fire the imagination as it once did.

At about the same time as our programme goes out to listeners of Radio One, the Christmas story will also be lold on Radio Two with carols by

candlelight from York Minster; on Radio Three by Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610; on Radio Four with Midnight Mass from Bridlington Priory, on Classic FM with Carols from Greyfriars Church, Oxford and on BBC1 with a Songs of Praise special - "Christmas with Cliff".

Good for all those audiences. All we're trying to do is tell the same story to a different audience. It may be the greatest story ever told, but there's more than one way of telling a story.

The writer presents Radio One's morn-



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INBRIEF

Fressure was mounting yesterday on Barings and its Dutch own-

er. ING, to reconsider its controversial consultancy agreement

with Andrew Tuckey, the former deputy chairman. Several of

the bank's clients are believed to have expressed concern at the

negative publicity surrounding the continued relationship with Mr Tuckey and his expected remuneration. Internal staff divi-sions were also coming to a head yesterday over Mr Tuckey's uncertain status at Barings. He is the only one of the 23 disgraced

former executives, all under investigation by the Securities and

Futures Authority, who is still actively engaged in Barings' business, with an office on the hank's executive floor.

Motorists will soon be able to buy warranties against mechan-

ical breakdown for cars bought privately, thanks to a scheme to be launched this week by members of the Institute of Insur-

ance Brokers. Until now warranties have only been available on

new and used cars bought from dealers. More than 3 million

Sir Christopher Hogg was yesterday confirmed as new chairman

of Allied Domecq, the drinks group. Currently deputy chairman, he will take over from Michael Jackaman on I April. Sir Christo-

plier recently announced he was standing down as chairman of

Courtanids, but remains chairman of Reuters and a non-exec-trice director of SmithKline Beecham and the Bank of England.

John Dennison, a former senior partner in Surrey-based accountants Geo H Jackson & Co, has been jailed for two and a

half years at Crowdon Crown Court after admitting six charges

Harry Moulson who runs British Gas's pipeline husiness, Transco, has been appointed to the main board. Mr Moulson,

who has recently been in dispute with the regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, over how much he can charge others to use the pipes

sees his salary increase to £260,000 from an undisclosed sum.

Markury Asset Management, the fund manager, announced yes-

terday that it is to hay back up to 15 per cent of shares in its European privatisation trust. The buy-hack involves the issue

of Exent in preference shares to finance the deal which is aimed

at narrowing the discount between the price of shares in the fund

\$250m restructuring at US drugs group

Bristof-Myers Squibb, the US drug group, said it would take a

in an effort to further reduce costs. The company said produc-

Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, has cut staff bonus-

es despite improved 1995 results. Pre-tax profits were \$497m for the first nine months, after a near-\$1hn loss in 1994.

tivity initiatives are expected to save at least \$1,1bn by 1998.

Salomon cuts staff bonuses

Pipeline chief joins British Gas board

New warranty deal for car buyers

cars are bought privately or at auction each year.

Hogg takes Allied Domecq chair

or unruthorised deposit-taking totalling £8m.

Mercury plans buy-back

and their net asset value.

Accountant jailed

Barings urged to re-think Tuckey role

82.80 0.30 80.4 \$ Index

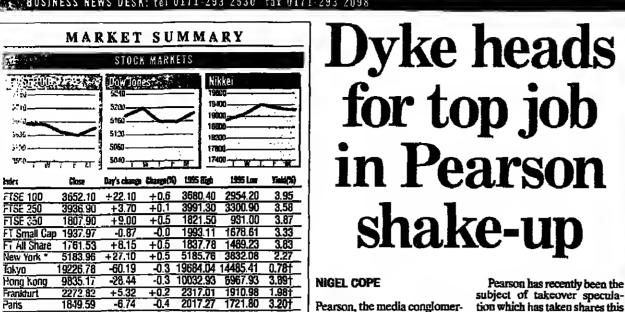
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MISINESS

MARKET SUMMARY

Trading move: Liffe takes space in the Stock Exchange tower



Pearson, the media conglomerate that owns the Financial Times, is expected to announce a radical boardroom shake-up tomorrow which could be a pre-lude to making TV mogul Greg Dyke its new chief executive.

The first part of the sweeping changes will he the re-placement of finance director James Jol with John Makinson, managing director of the Fi-nancial Times. Analysts are meeting the company for an update on trading tommorow and

are expecting to be given details.

Mr Dyke, the hearded dynamo who joined the group as head of Pearson TV at the beginning of this year, is 47. He is seen as a good manager who has strong operational experience.



His TV background would also count in his favour as this is a growth area for the company, which has been transforming iteself from a diversified conglomerate - including everything from engineering interests to Royal Doulton china - to a more focused media group.

It was considered a surprise that Mr Dyke was not given a boardroom role hut placed in charge of one of the operating

The path to the top job would need the retirement of Frank chief executive who was 65 last

A spokesman for Pearson refused to comment last night. However, privately it is believed they will annouce the changes at the Financial Times. But confirmation of changes at the top will come later.

subject of takeover speculation which has taken shares this year from a low of 543p to a peak of 684p. They were up 6p at 660p last night. In August Pearson announced profits had fallen 27 per cent in the halfyear to last June.

Mr Makinson is a former journalist on the influential Lex column on the FT. He has heen the paper's managing di-rector since last year. Mr Joll, 59, has been finance director for 10 years. He has also worked his way up from the Lex column where he was joint editor.

The changes will help calm investor concerns about the succession which have heen hanging over the group for the last 18 months. One analyst said: "The board isn't getting any younger and the issue has to be addressed. It has hung like a spectre over the company." Mr Barlow's retirement has

been long expected but Pearson has been dragging its feet about naming his successor.

Some analysts say, however, that Mr Dyke's experience is too narrow for a large group that

still owns theme parks such as Alton Towers and other leisure operations such as Madame Tussauds. They say that an external appointment would be more appropriate.

Media analysts will be hriefed collectively tomorrow after the

company changed its policy of meeting media watchers individually as it gave some access to price-sensitive information before others. The company is also likely to issue a trading The appointment of Mr

Dyke, who is a bands-on manager, is already seen to have shaken up the rather clubby Pearson. In March it pulled off its biggest TV deal when it paid £175m for Grundy Worldwide, the Australian production company that produces the Veighbours soap opera.

The deal was the work of Mr Dyke who only joined the comyear. In addition to the expansion in television, Pearson has been moving more into new media areas such as electronic publishing.

The group has been overhauling its regional newspaper group Westminster Press and cut 450 jobs there in July.



A new lease of life for outcry

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

Open outcry could return to the London Stock Exchange's old trading floor, which has been leased by Liffe, the futures exchange. In one of the largest City lettings in recent months, Liffe has taken 75,000 sq ft in the Stock Exchange tower, in-cluding office and storage space and the old trading floor.

Liffe, which operates by open outcry and has seen its business expand dramatically in recent years, said it needed the Stock Exchange floor as a contingency reserve, "We have to be able to continue trading at all

times. If anything happened, such as a fire, we could not rely on our automated system, but would need to carry on open outcry in another space," a Liffe spokeswoman said. The Stock Exchange ended

open outcry on its own floor when it moved to electronic dealing at Big Bang. Open outcry trading carried on with the options market until it merged with Liffe in 1992. The trading floor at the Stock

Exchange is still occupied by technicians finalising arrangements for the completion next. year of the Sequence trading

Michael Lawrence, chief ex-

opment projects on which we have been engaged. Letting these areas is part of the sound management of the exchange's

The exchange is also expect-ed to cut about 300 jobs out of its total staff of 1,300 as a result of replacement next summer of its traditional Talisman settlements system by the new Crest paperless technology. Liffe expects to take occu-

pation in the second half of next ear, and the leases run until 2004. Liffe's principal trading new contracts to the floor.

"Our space needs will be changing during 1996, following completion of the systems development develop pushed out office space, which "sbodne:

the exchange wants to relocate to the Stock Exchange tower. Volumes on Liffe have grown since its start-up in 1982 at an annual rate of 50 per cent until this year which has seen a 12 per cent drop, which the mar-ket explained by less volatility m bond markets, and a reaction to the Barings crisis and other derivative concerns. But Liffe has recently announced links with the Tokyo and Chicago futures exchange which will bring

Airtours faces further slump

JOHN SHEPHERD

Airtours yesterday revealed the full extent of the damage it suffered this summer, when holidays had to be sold at less than cost in an attempt to persuade people to go away despite the unusually hot weather at home. Profits before tax for the year to 30 September plunged from

Airtours now faces a critical three months as the post-Christmas booking period nears. It has cut capacity for next summer by 14 per cent to 1.8 million. Bookings to date, however, are very slow and are running al 25 per cent less than the same time last year.

tor. Joh insecurity and the lacklustre Budget, which put little extra cash into people's pockets, have kept the market de-

Hundreds of jobs have been cut this year across the industry, and analysts predict that hundreds of small tour operaof business.

The smaller operators have found it increasingly difficult to pass on the rises in hotel charges in Spain and Greece in the last two years. While there are signs that Greek hoteliers are prepared to cut charges to win back lost custom, prices in French franc is also deterring holidaymakers from venturing to the UK's most easily reached reign destination. Mr Crossland warned that the David Crossland, chairman of industry had to aim to halance foreign destination.

irtours, said prospects for 1995/96 depended on the willingness of UK tour operators to ensure that capacity was held in

Besides the summer's hot weather, the industry paid the price for the policy over the last two years of chasing market share by slashing prices. Profit per customer at Airtours this summer crashed from £19.85p to £9.37p.

Brochure prices for next summer have been increased by

Tour companies are suffering. Spain are rising again. The around 7 per cent, but cusfrom the lack of a feelgood fac-continued strength of the tomers can still book a boliday tomers can still book a holiday for next summer for the cost in real terms of package tour taken in 1993.

> demand with supply to rebuild profit margins. "We are not stupid enough to carry on operating it wrong," he added.

facing the industry is the high number of people who leave it until the last minute to book. Airtours is increasing its total

dividend for the year by 16.7 per cent to 14p, through a final pay-ment of 11p. Earnings per share were 34.7p, down from 49.2p. Investment Column, page 22

Grid directors net £2m in flotation

Industrial Correspondent

Directors of the National Grid Company saw the value of their shares and share options reach £2m yesterday after the flotation of the Grid went ahead. The shares opened at 209p and closed at 209.5p, valuing the company at about £3.5bn.

The main beneficiaries include David Jefferies, the chairman, whose shares alone are worth about £780,000, and John Uttley, the finance director. Directors also henefit from one-off dividend payments re-lated to the flotation, although Mr Uttley has said he will give about £50,000 to charity.

The price of the shares dis-appointed some City analysts who had expected it to reach as much as £2.20. At one point last week shares in the grey market touched £2.30.

The price may have heen hit

by the decision by North West Water and Scottish Power to bein "book-building" deman from institutions for their Grid stakes with a view to placing the shares. The two companies have more than 10 per cent between them following their respective takeovers of Norweb and Manweh, the regional clectricity firms.

Substantial stakes are still held by Hanson, through its acquisition of Eastern Electricity. and by Southern Electric International of the US, which bought South Western Elec-

tricity.

Both Hanson and SEI wanted to retain a Grid stake but were given a year to dispose of the shares by Tim Eggar, minister for industry and energy.

More than a million private

shareholders receive shares in the Grid through the demerger of stakes by regional firms. Shares placed, page 23

CNN success spurs rivals into action

For years it was derided by the hroadcast establishment as the "Chicken Noodle Network." But today, CNN, the 24-hours news network launched by Ted Turner in 1980, is the model everybody is straining to mimc, not to mock.

With the start of December has come a rush of pronouncements of plans to challenge CNN in around-the-clock news. Rupert Murdoch, whose News Corporation owns the Fox Network here, started it with an al-most off-hand comment at a conference in Boston that he intended launching his own cable news service, which, he said, would have a more conservative outlook than CNN.

Next to break cover was ABC, which proclaimed at a New York press conference

the CNN franchise and its service would be launched in 1997. Then came NBC, which said it had sketched plans for a cable

news operation in January.
The NBC proposal has since been tied to the Microsoft Corporation. NBC, a subsidiary of General Electric, has acknowledged it is in talks with Microsoft about possible colla-boration. It is widely believed Microsoft is considering be-coming a 50-per cent partner in NBC's 24-hour news service, which it would make available to personal computer users by way of new cable modem tech-nology due nexy year. How many CNN clones could

compete and survive is an open question.

"Everyone knows there is room for more than one CNN, but nobody knows how many more," said Peter Herford, a professor of journalism at Cothat it, too, wanted to take on lumbia University in New York.

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Agnelli to step down at Fiat

ANDREW GUMBEL

Gianni Agnelli, one of the towcring personalities of the postwar Italian business world, heralded the end of an era yesterday by officially announcing that he would step down as chairman of Fiat in the next few months as part of a slow transition of power. fourth-quarter restructuring charge of between \$250m and \$300m.

Mr Agnelli, who is 74 and in indifferent health, said during a traditional end-of-year meet-Fial's general manager Cesare of his continuing interest is ex-Romin. However he made clear pected to he grooming his where he is already on the that this would only be a tran-nephew, Giovanni Alberto, for board, and outside it.

sitional solution and that he intended younger blood to rise to the top of the organisation within a few years.

It has been known for some time that Mr Agnelli, who is viewed in Italy as a near-monarchical figure, intended to step aside sometime in 1996, but the mechanics of the succession have been surrounded by mystery and intense speculation.

In typically cautious fashion, Mr Agnelli will not be making an abrupt departure, but will ing with managers that he remain Chairman of the family would hand over the rems to his holding company IFI and chief long-standing number two, negotiator with the unious. Part

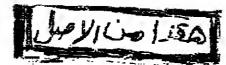
the top joh and thus keeping Fiat in the hands of the family that founded the company almost exactly a century ago.

The choice of Mr Romiti,

who is 72, as even a transitional figurehead is bound to be controversial, since he is mistrusted within the family and under judicial scrutiny for his alleged role in making illegal payments to Italian political parties. A public prosecutor formally applied for him to stand trial just four days ago. But his helmsmanship will

give the 31-year-old Giovanni Alberto time to mature, both within the Fiat organisation





business



'If British Energy had continued to pretend such a project was still on the cards it would have been dismissed as

just plain batty

Nuclear generators admit the game is up at last

After nearly half a century of dogmatic because of overcapacity. He hinted that buying attachment to the idea of building uning a regional electricity company might be historically very low, and having called the economic generating plant with taxpayers' money, the nuclear industry's leaders finally gave in yesterday and announced the game was up. An application to build another sta-tion at Sizewell in Suffolk bas been withdrawn, and an existing permission for

Hinkley in Somerset will not be acted upon. For most observers of the generating industry, the only surprise is that British Energy has persisted so long with its claim that another nuclear power station is a feasible economic proposition - even to the point of brushing aside the Government's nuclear review in the summer, which made clear that not a single dollop of state aid would be available.

In fact a new nuclear power station would need a gigantic subsidy. Every potential insti-tutional investor in the privatisation of British Energy was aware of this, even if the management continued to delude itself. The company is wise to back off now, well ahead of the flotation pencilled in for next summer. If it had continued to pretend such a project was still on the cards it would have been dismissed as just plain batty, bardly a a recipe for successful flotation.

Acknowledging the mortality of Britain's nuclear power industry creates its own problems, however, for no one likes a company without a long-term future. Bob Haw-ley, chief executive, plays down diversification into gas or other forms of generation,

ing a regional electricity company might be on his agenda, but it is hard to see how.

The Government would not let him bid before privatisation, by which time there may be no recs left. Furthermore. Tim Eggar, the industry and energy minister, is determined to prevent a repeat of the easy profits after the last electricity privatisation, and will almost certainly load British Energy with enough debit to prevent a buying spree after the floration. Even if be did not, any suggestion of grand plans for diversification would probably have investors running a mile. The alterna-

have investors running a mile. The alternatives, of selling existing technology overseas and joining the burgeoning worldwide indus-try that decommissions old power stations. are not the most exciting investment propo-sition around. Lord Hanson prides himself on his ability to make profits by managing declining industries, whether they be sach manufacture or tobacco. Perhaps it is time for him to take a close look at nuclear power. Floating the company at a realistic price con-tinues to look as difficult as ever.

Question mark over our monetary set-up

The betting must still be on an interest rate cut after tomorrow's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George. notwithstanding the Governor's supposed opposition. After all, the Government runs no nal the need for easier policy.

economy right earlier this year, the Chan-

The big drawback, however, is that such move will undoubtedly put a question mark over our monetary arrangements. These were set up after the pound plummeted out of the European exchange rate mechanism, to make sure that there was an alternative framework for keeping inflation under control. At their core are the munthly meetings at which the Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England discuss a broad range of economic indicators which contain signals shout inflation prospects.

Both the Bank and the Treasury predict that underlying inflation will be around 2.5 per cent by mid-1997. Many outside economists would agree with Mr Clarke that this in itself is reason enough to allow interest rate cuts now. Unfortunately, the indicators the Chancellor and Governor are supposed to use to assess the inflation outlook are not yet flashing the green light for lower base rates Mr Clarke would like. Monetary and financial indicators such as narrow and broad money, the exchange rate, share prices and market expectations of inflation all point the other way. Cost indicators are mixed - materials costs are easing, but wage pressures are increasing. Indicators of activity such as output, retail sales and the state of the labour market are the only ones to sigThe judgement Mr Clarke needs to make age. Mercury clearly felt such continued emtomorrow is not easy, because it will not be barrassment was more than it could afford. possible to judge whether policy has been about right until we see the inflation rate in two years' time. That, however, is precisely why he and Mr George look at a long list of indicators that hold signals about inflation. If it is too early to give a verdict on the success of the policy, it is also too early to abandon the rules. And if Eddie George is more acutely aware of this than Kenneth Clarke, it is because he is more likely to be here to see the consequences than the present Chancellor.

Elegant solution to an embarrassing problem

Thame rather than invention appears to have mothered the latest financial wheeze from Mercury Asset Management. Far from enjoying stonking gains, the 70,000 private investors who poured money into MAM's European privatisation investment trust have found themselves languishing in poorly performing markets. Launched at the top of the market early last year, the trust paid the price of collapsing confidence, and the fact that European privatisations have tended not to be priced at the giveaway levels common in the UK. Try as it might to argue that its trust had performed well against the index, the near 19 per cent discount to net asset value told a more dismal story of disappointment. For the sake of its hrand im- old and emharrassing problem.

The remedy it has come up with looks clever, a share buy-back that is a first of its kind. MAM will take out about 15 per cent, or £86m, of the trust's share capital over the next year or so, which should both narrow the discount and improve the asset value per share for investors. The key to the technique is the replacement of the trust shares with an equivalent amount of preference shares, which will be privately placed with institutions. Although equity in name, these preference shares are

to all intents and purposes deht.

This means Mercury gets round the company restrictions on share buy-hacks, which must he financed out of distributable profits or the proceeds of another share issue, while at the same time maintaining the size of the trust and therefore its portfolio intact. Instead of decreasing the volume, it has found a way of changing the balance sheet structure, which means there will be no loss in management fees either.

But do not expact a rash of imitation. This son of move only works with trusts that are below their issue price. Otherwise there are horrific tax complications. So old established trusts need not apply. The trust also needs to be of a decent size to absorb the costs and to make the preference shares worthwhile. Investors will pay some £4m a year to finance the excreise, which, looks a small price for a seemingly elegant solution to an

Belle époque: Last summer's heatwave boosted nation-wide expansion for restaurant group specialising in pavement catering at affordable prices



Profits take wing at Pelican

The blazing summer and the trend towards the café culture bas doubled profits at Pelican group, the restaurant business that runs the Café Rouge and Dôme chains.

The company has been opening a new restaurant every day over the last six months and plans to have more than 100 by March. The new Café Rouge which opens today in Reigate, Surrey, will be the group's 91st Roger Myers, the chief execfresco cating in the summer pushed up sales by 3 per cent as branches of the Dome and Café Rouge feature pavement tables. But also said that eating out was becoming more popular.

women, people are looking for affordable places to eat out." The average price of a lunch at Café Rouge was still only £6.50, he said, while a dinner for two would cost £25. He added that

utive, said the popularity of al though his restaurants were seen as trendy places to visit there was still a resistance to higher prices.

Pelican has started to expand the Café Rouge concept outside of London with branches in Birmingham, Bristol, Brighton "People are eating out more than ever," he said, "With the rise in the numbers of working and Aberdeen. Next year the Dome and Mamma Amalfi formats will also he taken nationwide; "It's very pleasing that the concepts have worked so well outside London. We still have a lot of scope for expansion."

Pelican has opened or converied 64 restaurants since

bave, a monastery themed restaurant in Bromley, Kent. Pelican started with one restaurant in Richmond, Surrey in 1989 and has been expanding rapidly ever since. A second branch of Sheila's, a barbeque-

style restaurant is also likely. Pelican announced pre-tax profits up 124 per cent to £3m in the six months to September. Sales were up by 76 per cent to £24m. Shares closed 1p higher at 117.5p. The interim dividend in-

Jersey proposes tax haven for auditors

Jersey yesterday announced plans to introduce laws to limit the liability of accountaints and other professionals amid speculation that other offshore financial centres will be quick to develop similar legislation that some fear will encourage "flyhy-night" organisations to leave

A spokeswoman for the island government said the competition between the centres was so intense that a swift response from somewhere such as Guernsey was likely. Senator Pierre Horsfall, pres-

ident of the States of Jersey's finance and economics committee, said the planned law was "yet another example of the Jersey authorities working together with business to introduce new legislation" and added that he hoped the law would attract large multi-partner firms from

other professions.

Meanwhile, Austin Mitchell,
the Labour MP who has been a vociferous critic of accountants and other professionals for many years, has added his voice to the growing view that accountancy firms risk damaging their reputations by setting themselves up in places more

iles and other fugitives. "It's barmy. The only answer to this kind of legal action is good audits and they're not going to be able to do any better audits in Jersey than here," he said.

He also suggested that the firms might be seeking to panic the Government into moving quickly to reform the law of joint and several hability. This principle, which is being amended in the United States and elsewhere, is seen as the key to their problem since it can result in auditors meeting the whole loss of a corporate collpass even if they are only partly to blame.

As expected, Ernst & Young and Price Waterhouse, two of Britain's largest accountancy firms, confirmed yesterday that they bad helped the States of Jersey's finance and economics committee develop the draft law that will be debated in the island's parliament in the first quarter of next year. If passed, it will bave to go to the Privy Council for approval and could come into operation by the

end of the year.

It is largely based on legislation already introduced in the US state of Delaware that has encouraged the country's leading accountancy firms to regis-

- as in mainland Britain - limited liability is only open to partners who are not involved in the running of the business. But the new law would protect the personal assets of any partners not connected with a negligent act, while still making the overall partnership totally liable for all debts. In addition to paying an as yet undecided registration fee, each firm would also have to make a £5m financial provi-

ments against it. The Jersey authorities trust that this and the island's "reputation for good regulation" will prevent the planned law being abused by individuals or organisations intent on using offshore status as a cover for

sion from which to meet judg-

suspicious activities.
Both Nick Land, senior partner of Ernst & Young, and Ian Brindle, his counterpart at Price Waterbouse, emphasised that they would not be seeking the tax advantages available to organisations registered in Jersey. Pointing out that they would continue to be regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, they said that it they made the change it would not make any difference to how they operated.

BREITLING

MUSIC & AVIATION: SPORT AS ART

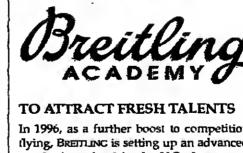
THE BREITLING WORLD CUP OF AEROBATICS' 1995 season was staged successively in France (Salon aéronautique du Bourget), Canada (Abbotsford Airshow), California (Miramar NAS Airshow) and in Austria (Wiener Neustadt Flugmesse), ending with a spectacular finale at Tajima in Japan before 100,000 awed spectators who watched as the year's twelve finest pilots set to music the highly technical art of aerobatics.



HIGH-FLYING FINALE

Patrick Paris, who pilots the BRETTLING CAP 232 plane, won that last event, taking second place in the year's overall standings, just behind Mudry factory pilot Dominique Roland, also flying a CAP 232, the winner of the 1995 BRETTLING CUP. In third place aboard a Sukhoi 31 was Jurgis Kairys of Lithuania, whose performance confirmed that generous engine power and aerobatics were now perfectly compatible.

During this BRETTLING WORLD CUP OF AERO-BATICS flying season, over one million spectators rediscovered flying, aerobatics remaining a little-known aviation specialty that really merits greater public interest.

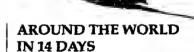


In 1996, as a further boost to competition flying, BRETLING is setting up an advanced aerobatics school in the U.S., Japan and Europe. Called the BRETLING ACADEMY, it is designed to allow talented up-and-coming pilots to receive advanced artistic and technical training. They will have an opportunity of honing their skills aboard highperformance aircraft (CAP 232, Extra 300S, Sukhoi 31) and training with the sport's most qualified pilots including Xavier de Lapparent, the current world champion. all concrete BRETTUNG contributions to the future of aerobatics.

PILOTS WANTED

Today still, aeronautics combines advanced technology and high adventure. Despite the routine of scheduled air travel, flying remains at the heart of one of man's oldest

Every year, BRETTLING will furthermore sponsor an original project involving the world's airspace presented by a particularly imaginative pilot. Called Brettling WINGS AWARD, it will reward the finest project submitted during the coming year.



In 1996, a project code-named BREITLING ORBITER will spearhead this new series of BREITLING-sponsored events. In a modern interpretation of an age-old dream, a nonstop globe-circling balloon trip will shortly become a reality. A Cameron-type balloon featuring a helium-filled sphere and a hotair balloon have been designed to enable the lighter-than-air ORBITER to maintain an altitude of 8,000 to 12,000 meters even after



Winners of the first transatlantic balloon race in 1992, Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Wim Verstraeten of Belgium will share a pressurized and thermically insulated cabin. They will be travelling far higher than before, at jumbo-jet allitudes, driven by jetstream winds high above the legendary Silk Road, Korea and Japan to California then on to Nova Scotia and across to Europe again. Brettling is particularly proud to sponsor an exploit of this magnitude and to provide its daring crew with chronographs of a highly unusual design.

Inflation figures 'open way for early rate cut'

DIANE COYLE **Economics Correspondent**

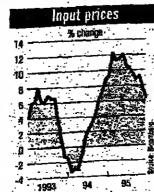
Inflation is unlikely to fall much further, William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. told MPs yesterday. "We don't think it's going to come down very much more. It's getting very low," he told the Treasury Select

His remarks followed figures showing that inflationary pressures were receding. Analysis said that a slowdown in factory gale price rises last month has cleared the way for Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to cut base rates after his meeting tomorrow with Eddic George, Govemor of the Bank of England,

"Economic conditions would make lower interest rates a prudent measure at the moment. It would not be a gamble, said Sean Shepler, an economist at investment bank CSFB. Many City economists expect a small cut in interest rates after tomorrow's meeting. Others think it will be postponed until the new year - particularly after Hans Ticimeyer. Bundesbank presiimminent fall in German interest rates.

Lower interest rates in Germany and the US, making it easier for Britain to follow suit are expected in the next few weeks. But the Bank of England is expected to advise against an early move - raising the spec-tre of a re-run of the Governor's earlier disagreement with the Chancellor.

The annual rate of increase in factory gate prices declined to 4.3 per cent in November, while earlier figures were re-



dent, played down hopes of an vised down. Although year-onyear increases in paper and plastics prices remained high, they were much lower than earlier in the year. Computer prices fell 4 per cent in the year to November. There was an encouraging

drop in "core" output price inflation, excluding food and fuel. Its annual rate of increase in the latest three months - an indicator emphasised by the Bank of England - fell from 4.0 per cent to 3.4 per cent in November. Prices for materials declined slightly during the month, after adjusting for seasonal in-creases in food and fuel costs. Since the start of the year the annual rate of input price inflation has nearly halved, to 6.2 per cent, and has reached its owest since August 1994.

The earlier alarming bulge in materials prices has been reversed, but economists at brokers Hoare Govett say that the fall bas been driven by lower fuel prices. The year-on-year increase in "core" imported materials prices is still running

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Allders struggles on weak legs

struggled more than most lis twopronged approach to retailing, with de-partment stores on the one band and partment stores on the one band and ruling hanging over the stock, there is duty-free shops on the other was better value elsewhere. supposed to be a strength. Instead, weaknesses have emerged in both

legs.
Department stores have been hit by weak consumer demand and the blaz-

The duty-free business is suffering from high opening costs and uncertainties over the European Union's ap-

proach to duty free shoppping.

The performance of the shares tells the story. Allders' shares were priced at 170p when they were floated two years ago. After peaking at 243p this May, they have been on the slide ever since. Yesterday they fell a further 21p to a record low of 168p.

Results for the year to September compounded the gloom. Pre-tax profits were down 8 per cent to £23.5m on sales that were up 13 per cent to £828m. although exceptional items cloud the picture somewhat.

Last year's figures included a £1.5m gain from property disposals. This year's are dented by a £1.1m cost relating mainly to the cost of opening new duty-free outlets in Copenhagen and

But the underlying position is un-certain at best. True, the department stores pushed up profits to £15.3m and like-for-like sales grew by around 2.5 per cent.

However, most of this gain is thought to have come from the flagship store in Croydon where building work in the surrounding shopping centre has now finished.

The rest of the chain is thought to be treading water.

The margin has also weakened due to a shift in the sales mix towards lower-margin goods such as perfumes and multi-media PCs.

The duty-free business bas different problems. It is faced with the possible end of duty-free shopping in the European Union by 1999. Some 40 per cent of Allders' duty-free sales are in the EU, though half of this is in goods such as perfumes and cosmetics which are less affected.

Allders has also suffered from a £1m drop in incentive payments from BAA in its UK airports. This related to turnovers targets set by the airports operator which were higher this year, With analysts forecasting profits of This is a discount to the sector but

with risks such as the EU duty-free

Airtours suffers from sunburn

The hig question facing the tour operators who have slashed next year's holiday capacity by a quarter to 8.5 million is whether they have done enough. All depends on the key January to March booking season and the indicators, so far, suggest furtber cuts will

Airtours' annual results vesterday showed a nasty dose of sunburn from this summer's season. Pre-tax profits dropped from £75.8m to £59m. But for a full year's inclusion of a bealthy £25.2m from the acquired Scandinavia operations, the figures would have appeared even more dreadful.

The fact that the shares yesterday jumped 22p to 358p owes much to the results being at the top of a pes-

following the recent profits warning. The shares have underperformed the market by 35 per cent this year.

Airtours' underlying bookings from the UK are currently down 25 per cent. Brochure prices have been increased, but by only enough to put them on a par with the cost of holidays sold in 1993.

What Airtours hopes, as do Thomson and First Choice, is that supply and demand will be according to the control of the control of the cost of

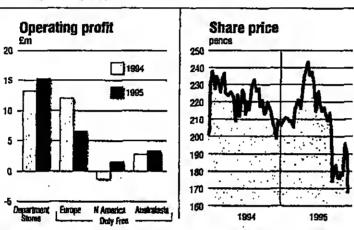
demand will he equalised by the time school holidays start next summer to prevent a repeat of this year's giveaway of packages at below cost.

The giveaway was all too evident in Airtours' results, with profit per pas-senger crashing from £19.85 to £9.37 equal to a drop in margin from 7.9 to 3.5 per cent.
While few in the industry dispute that

this year is going to prove another big test. Airtours does have financial strength and additional earnings streams from Scandinaiva and now Canada to see it over the worst problems. The cash pile at the year-end

DISTRICT TOUR TIMES OFFIT	
Analysts' forecasts vary greatly	for
current year, starting at £65m	Dre.
te current your, sunding at 20011	PIL

	maers:	at a gi	ance		
Ma	erket value: £	93m, share p	orics 168p		
Five year record	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Turnover (£m)	568	556	631	672	736
Pre-tax profits (Sm)	43.2	(3.4)	6.4	25.4	23.5
Earnings per share (pence)	alli 🛨 🗓	(7:9)	4.3	17.8	15.7
Dividends per share (pence)		nii	nii	6.7	7.0
Operating profit		S	hare pric	28	



This has been a tough year for all retailors, but Aliders seems to have a forward rating of 12.

£22.5m for this year the shares are on there were no additional surprises sensus p/e is a lowly 8.2 but, given that interest rates are likely to fall soon, the share price is well supported by a gross yield of 5.2 per cent on assumptions of a 15p dividend this year.

Yield underpins Kenwood

On the face of it these looked to be a good set of interim figures from Kenwood, the electrical appliance maker, with pre-tax profits a useful 24 per cent higher at £7.4m (£5.95m). But the shares, which have been in steady retreat since the beginning of last year, slipped a further 2p to 229p, well be-low both the peak of 381p and the 1992 flotation price of 285p.

The market's worries, given a size-able boost when former chief executive Tim Parker headed for the exit in October to run Clark the sboe maker, are justified. Kenwood has a number of intractable problems.

Its core UK food processor market

is mature and highly susceptible to squeezes on disposable income. Raw materials are a further concern, accounting for 5 or 6 per cent of sales value and subject to often violent swings. Finally borrowings, representing 75 per cent of sbarehulders' funds at the half-way stage, leave little flexibility.

But Kenwood also has a number of advantages over its competitors. Its focus on achieving a low-cost manufacturing base has a good lead through a factory in China, which is currently working flat out to satisfy demand both from Kenwood and Japanese compa-nies hit by the strong yen and attracted by the increasing quality of Chinese

The company is tackling the static food processor market by launching a steady stream of new products, such as travel irons, air conditioning units, rice cookers and espresso machines. And overseas there are still plenty of opportunities in markets where Kenwood is competing head-on with high-cost domestic manufacturers.

The balance betwen those pros and cons will determine whether you think a prospective price/earnings ratio of un-der 10 for the year to March, when profits of around £16m are likely, is fair or not. With a prospective yield of 5.5 per cent the shares are probably fairly

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Grand designs on Detroit dismissed as a lot of rot

Detroit is highly insulted by suggestions that 12 hlocks of its old business district be turned into "a theme park of decay". The idea has been put forward by Camilio Jose Vergara, the famous New York photographer and writer, who wants to see the boarded-up downtown skyscrapers stabilised and then left to rot - creating what he calls an American Acropolis.

"We could transform nearly 100 troubled buildings into a grand national historic park of play and wonder," Mr Vergara said. "A memorial to industrial America.

The theory is that walls of the pre-Depression buildings would crumble to expose steel frames. Trees would grow through the ceilings and wild animals would return. Visitors could then stroll through the empty streets, hird-watching and collecting berries.

"It's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard," ex-ploded John Slater, chairman of the Detroit Planning Commission, who said he has plans to revive the husiness ethic in downtown Motown.

The continental weakness for a spot of DIY has claimed another victicm. Hans Jakob Zimmermann, chairman-designate of the Thyssen subsidiary Handelsunion, has surrendered both parts of his title after admitting be bad his house renovated free of charge by various construction compa nies. Thyssen said the 51year-old director had left the

company after a short, but terminal, internal inquiry. The exploits of the toupeed Jurgen Schneider apart, corporate Germany has remained largely untouched by sleaze. That has traditionally been the preserve of the French. You will recall industry minister Gerard Longuet, who resigned last year over allegations of hribery in connection with his villa in St Tropez. And Pierre Suard, chairman of electrical engineering group Alcatel, who allowed the-French taxpayers to foot the hill for the refurbishment of sear polumil

his luxury Paris apartment. Mr Zimmermann, to borrow an English phrase, appears to have been banged to rights. According to Der Spiegel, the German weekly, the incident came to light when an anonymous letter was sent simultaneously to the Düsseldorf prosecutor and to Thyssen management Confronted with the allega-tion Mr Zimmermann admir

ted everything. Not that be had any choice. The value of the work carried out at Mr Zimmermann's house was 800,000 German marks (£360,360) of which 70 per cent is said to bave been picked up by Hochtief, the construction giant. More than a quick paint joh.

Rookmakers are predicting a complete shutdown in the City from 2.30pm today as the Varsity rugby kicks off in front of a 65,000 sell-out crowd at Twickenham. "A lot of people will either be at. the match or watching it on television," said Sporting . Index, the spread betting specialists, which is predictng brisk business.

Having thumped Western Samoa, Cambridge University are firm favourites to win by a margin of 8 to 11 points.

Documents forming an integral part of the Forte defence strategy have had to be corrected after they were found to contain misleading information. The Christmas party of the Savoy Group press office will not take place on Thursday 19 December as the invitation states. The 19th is a Tuesday

IN BRIEF

Greene King lifts beer and food sales

Greene King, hrewers of Greene King IPA and Abbot Ale, has seen real growth in heer volumes and food sales in the first half of the year. Profits from the company's managed pubs rose 14 per cent, while the tenanted husiness, still the largest part of the group, grew profits 5 per cent to £7.68m. That fed into a group total raised from £9.81m to £11m in the 24 weeks to 15 October. The interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 4.5p. In view of the reerty market, the board has begun a erty revaluation 12 months ahead of the time dictated by the company's normal five-year schedule. The results will be incorporated in the full-year results.

Higher Carclo margins boost profits

Carclo Engineering remains optimistic about the outlook despite a recent fall in orders in certain husinesses. The textile equipment to wire ropes group said the drop in order volumes since September had resulted from de-stocking by some customers, but the trend was not expected to continue. Higher margins pushed interim profits 12 per cent higher to £8.2m in the six months to September. The half-time dividend is raised 7.5 per cent to 3.44p.

Court Cavendish depreciates property

Court Cavendish, the nursing home operator, has moved to depreciate its property assets, taking a £360,000 charge in the latest six months. The cost of the change would be £760,000 in a full year. Half-year profits to October were held at £2.24m as a result of the charge, an underlying rise of 16 per cent. The balf-way dividend goes up 15 per cent to 1.78p.

	Ternover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Airtours (F)	1.32bn (0.97bn)	50 1m (75.8m)	34.7p (49.2p)	14p (10.9p)
Allders (F)	829m (733m)	23.5m (25.5m)	15.7p (17.8p)	4.60 (4.50)
API Group (F)	94.7m (78.2m)	8.35m (7.01m)	27.4p (20p)	10p (9.06p)
Carcle Engineering (1)	76.0m (67.3m)	8.2m (7.3m)	9.2p (8.2p)	3.44p (3.2p)
Court Cavendish (I)	13 3m (11 3m)	2.6m (2.2m)	10.2p (9.5p)	1.78g (1.55p)
Flockenic Data (F)	12.6m (14.0m)	3.1m (4.1m)	7.53p (10.21p)	2.15p (2p)
Firsthes (I)	174m (149m)	9.07m (11.9m)	4.69 (4p)	1.6p (-)
Greene King (†)	76 1m (71.5m)	11.1m (9.8m)	19.1p (17.5p)	4.5p (4.1p)
Greencore (F)	h437m (ir 404m)	(r47m (ir 39 5m)	45.9p (38.4p)	7.70 (6.2p)
Johnson & Firth (F)	133m (130m)	5.81m (-4.39m)	29p15	0.7p (nil)
Keenrood (I)	87 2m (60 4m)	7.4m (6m)	11.3p (11.2p)	3.25p (3.25p)
Pelican (I)	24 Om (13.6m)	3.02m (1.37m)	2.9p (1 63p)	0.65p (0.5p)
(F) - Final (I) - Interim	(1) - 24 weeks to 0	lct 15		

The need for a faster growth strategy

Ahead of the wholesale price humbers yesterday, the market thought it was odds-on for an interest rate cut following the meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor tomorrow. When the goodish ures were published it mar aged to convince itself that a half point off base rates had become

a near-cert. feels right, principally because the market will accept it. The balance of fear between renewed inflation and a new Europe-wide recession (actual recession on the continent, very subdued growth here) has shifted towards the latter. The Bank, however, will continue to lean against inflation, as it must, and may be able to hold down the cut to a quarter per cent. That might disappoint the markets, but politically it would be astute for the Chancellor to accept that advice. The less be cuts now the more be may be able to do so

in the future. The underlying point bere is that world interest-rate pressure has clearly eased. Germany is going to cut rates soon, for last week's figures on manufacturing output revealed that yearon-year there was a sbarp downturn in domestic sales, so that despite strong exports, overall output was down. The obvious trigger for easing in Germany is this week's Bundesbank council meeting, but even if this does not sanction a cut, expect some easing early next year. In 12: US there is no expectation of a lightening of monetary policy and the bond and equity markets have been whizzing ahead on that basis.



ECONOMIC VIEW HAMISH McRAE

Against this background some cut in UK rates really does seem likely. But of course we Some sort of hase rate cut are just talking about a modest shaving of one particular interest rate. On a long historical view it matters not one jot whether base rates go up, down or sideways as a result of this

has been much larger. It is as though the unpleasant experience of negative real rates in the 1970s has to be paid for: the markets are in a way getting their own back.

This is not a British issue; it is a global one. We may or may not do a bit better than the rest

his desire of lower interest rates, and Mr George will achieve his desire of lower inflation. The only difference is that the former may not he in ffice to eniov Whether the downward trend

is indeed secure of course depends on the grand forces of the global economy - in particular the continuing downward pressure on the price of goods caused by new, low-wage entrants into the world market, the relentless drive to improve the

Looking 10 or 20 years ahead the balance of probability is in favour of low global inflation

particular meeting. What mat-ters is whether the long-term trend of inflation (and hence long term interest rates) continues to be down.

The long-term context into which this decision fits is shown in the graph, which shows both inflation and interest rates in the Group of Seven nations since 1960. Three messages from that graph are very, very clear.

One is the clear upward trend of hoth lines until the late 1970s, with the twin peaks of in-flation, and the upward pull this exerted on bond yields. The second is the clear downward trend of both lines since then. And the third is the extent to which the natural relationship of positive real interest rates has been restored. That long-term interest rates have to be positive was evident in the 1960s, but in the 1980s the gap between the two

of the pack, but the differences will be less than the similarities. efficiency of the developed world in response, and the dis-However it does affect Britain. for if the long-term trend of inflation continues down, so too will our bond yields and so too will short-term interest rates. In other words, if that down-

world in response, and the dis-cipline exercised by financial markets on governments which fail to deliver an acceptable inflation performance. Looking ahead 10 or 20 years the balance of probability surely is in favour of still-low global inflation,



side of the graph is secure. Mr maybe no inflation at all, maybe ceven a long period of falling prices, similar to that which occurred in the last century here in Britain, or is taking place in Japan now. However that would hardly seem to be relevant to inflation and interest rate prospects in any one particular G7 economy in the next few weeks or months.

Free-loading at the London International Boat show comes to

an abrupt end. Stung by a loss of revenue the organisers have

"revised" the complimentary ticket procedure to exclude non-essential riff-raff. Free tickets will no longer be issued with-

out full accreditation and accompanying photograph.

Another fine tradition sinks slowly below the Plimsoll line.

But in a way it might be. Consider this. There is widespread evidence of a sense of growing insecurity throughout the UK economy. This is reflected in low wage awards, in still-subdued house prices, in the inability of many producers and retailers to make price rises suck. You can see this in the shops now, for already there are a sprinkling of pre-Christmas price reductions or other special discounts. This would have been unheard of, five or ten years ago.

This is not a climate in which it is dangerous to cut rates. If this were France and special interest groups were seeking by force to increase their share of the cake at the expense of others, then it would be dangerous 10 risk a low interest rate poli-cy. But we clearly are not in that boat. Indeed one could put the point round the other way. It is not just possible to risk faster growth bere than one could do in a more rigid, less market-disciplined economy; it is actually necessary to try to achieve faster growth because of the increased insecurity of people in such an environment.

Such a policy has worked in the US and there is no reason to suppose it will not work here too. Expect the cut in

Compass attacks

JOHN SHEPHERD

Compass Group has objected strongly to the Stock Exchange over the decision to shift its share listing from the hotels and leisure sector to the breweries. pubs and restaurants grouping. Some leading leisure analysis are even more furious because Thorn EMI is being moved from leisure and reclassified under publishing just months before its planned break-up.

The changes were announced last week by FT-SE International, the joint venture between the Stock Exchange and the Financial Times. Shares in the Alpha Airports

March 11 11 Kill /

in-flight catering, airport retailing and ground services company are also being reboused from botels and leisure to business support services.

Some analysts are concerned tbe move could hit the share price of Compass whose shares trade on a price earnings mul-tiple of 17, compared with around 14.5 for the leading Steve Vale, secretary to the FT-SE International reclassification committee, said the decision to move Compass owed much to the strategic, and highly profitable moves by the brewers and puh operators to sell more food.

Francis Mackay, deputy chairman and chief executive of Compass, said it would cost much time and money to educate new analysts.

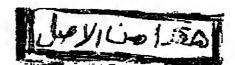
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market report/shares TAKING STOCK

Flotation of National Grid fails to electrify investors FT-SE 100 3,652,1 +22,1 FT-SE 250 After five days of ragged retreat shares perked up as the 3,936.9 +3.7 stock market enjoyed the en-FT-SE 350 ticing scent of lower interest 1,807.9 +9,0-: :: rates. The FT-SE 100 index, down more than 50 points last SEAQ YOLUME week, recovered 22.1 points to 1,014bn stiares. 31,651 bargains 3,652.1, although trading remained moderate. Gifts Index 95.86 + 0.29

It is widely expected that an interest rate cut will emerge within days of tomorrow's Ken and Eddie meeting; a German reduction is likely on Thursday and lower US rates are on the

But National Grid dominated the action - although it failed to electrify investors. The price, at the end of the first day of official dealings, was just a shade firmer at 209.5p, valuing the group at £3.50.

But turnover was a heady 57.4 There had been hopes the shares would trade at around 220p; they had, in when-issued

The overhang of a big plac-ing was the restraining influ-ence. North West Water and Scottish Power offered 181 million Grid shares, around 10.7 per cent of the capital, with some estimating the placing at 195p. But, attracted by the handsome yield, institu-

tions clamoured for the shares, paying 208p.
The two utilities were told to cut their Grid holdings as a condition for clearance of the bids for Norweb and Manweb. They had to reduce their holdings to just 1 per cent within a

Hauson, which acquired Eastern, and Southern Electricity Corporation of the US, the buyer of Sooth Westero Electricity, also have Grid shares they will have to sell. Southern Electric, the subject of a referred bid from Na-

tional Power, is expected to

| Section | Sect

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MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Stock market repurter

of the year

produced a 7.8 per cent profit

shortfall; the shares dropped

21p to 169p. Pearson, with management

meeting analysts oo Thurs-day, climbed 2.5p to 177p. Airtours, the holidays group,

rose 22p to 358p as profits came in around the forecast

The other electricities have passed on their shares or have said they will do so.

London Electricity added

29.75p to 698p on a Merrill Lynch push and special dividend hopes lifted East Mid-lands 28.5p to 729p. Great Universal Stores

added another 13p to 678p on thoughts of corporate devel-opments and strengthening hopes of bumper Christmas trading. Other retailers to catch the festive spirit included Marks & Spencer and

Drink shares also made progress with Scottish & New-

week Trafalgar House fell 25p to 27p.

Takeover talk, although much more muted than of

late, produced a 17p lift to 584p Domecq, also helped by the for Royal Bank of Scotland; a pending appointment of Sir Christopher Hogg as chair-man, gained 5.5p to 501p. Allders, the department store chain, took some of the suggestion Abbey National could be dragged into bid action, was responsible for a 12p gain to 638p.

British Mohair, the textile shine from retailers when it

group, fell 39p to 134p fol-lowing a profit warning. Tot-tenham Hotspur scored a 9p gain to 233p. The shares have nearly doubled this year on the changes in the air and an investment meeting tomorrow, rose 6p to 660; Rolls-Royce. more settled atmosphere at the club and its improving Pre-miership performance.

Inchape, the interoational trader, made a 16.5p advance to 223p on the feeling the fall had been too steep and La-porte, hit last week by a profit warning, regained 29p to 639p. Sherwood Compoter was

161.5p following a profits warning from the Usinor steel giant. Ahead of results this puting's 4.8 per cent stake among institutions.
BTG, the old British Tech-

oology Group, jumped 67p to 920p following the forecast of a 4p final dividend; Memory Corporation, the computer group, gained 3p to 468p as it struck a deal with BTG to manage its intellectual age its intellectual property portfolio. BTG is taking a stake in Memory.Megalom dia, the Saatchi vehicle, eased 15p at 89p.

Gearhouse, the presenta-tion equipment group, made a quiet debut. The shares, placed at 200p, ended at 203p.

Christies International, the fine art auctiooeer, was 2p firmer at 211p. After the market closed it was announced that some large shareholders had reduced their shareholdings. Last week Joseph Lewis. a Bahamas-based investor lifted his interest to 25.32 per cent.

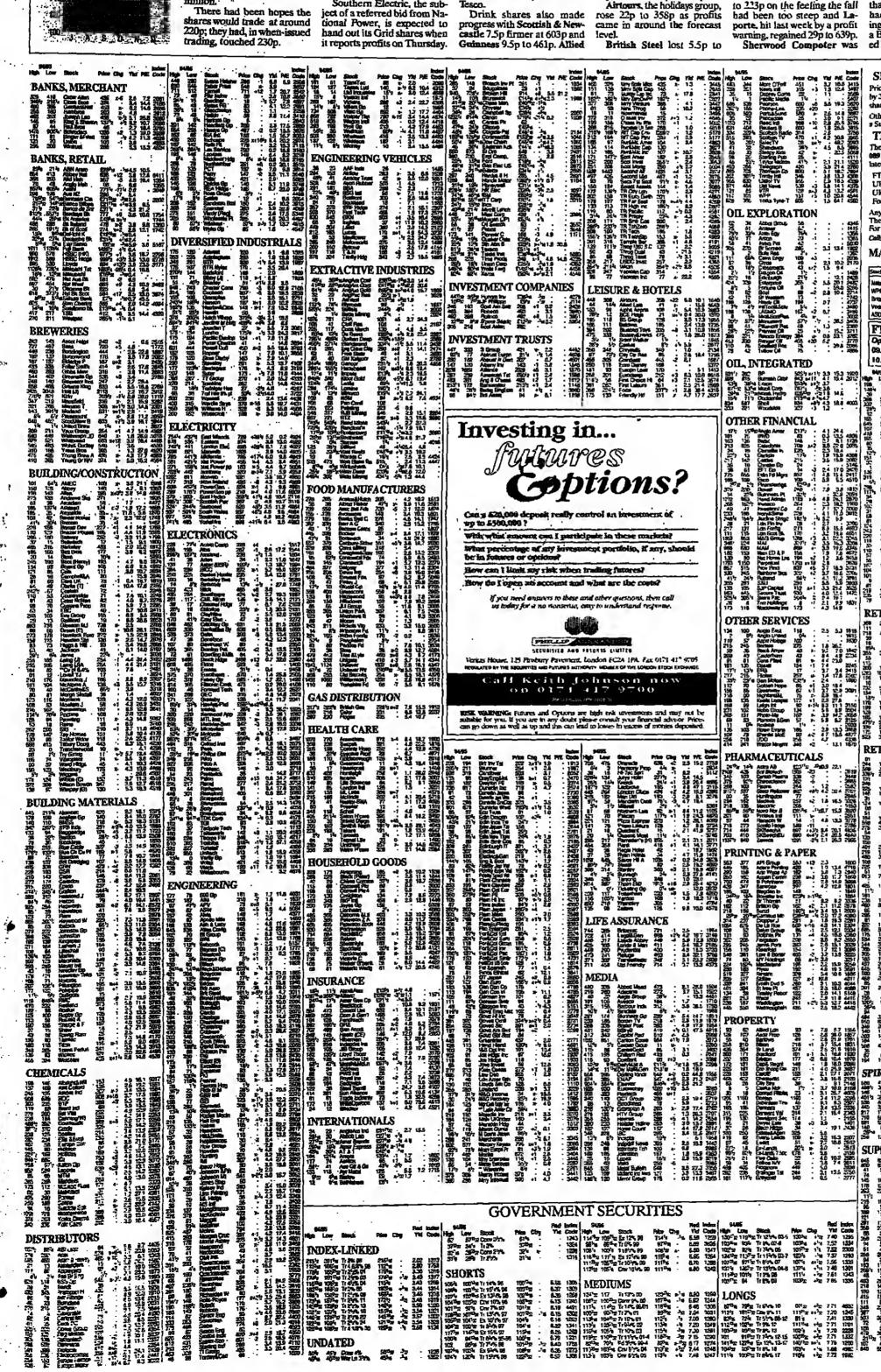
THE INDEPENDENT INDEX

☐ Shares of Alba, the electrical group, held around their high ahead of an investment dinuer at London's Savoy Hotel, hosted by Henderson Crosthweite. Fifteen leading fund managers attended. The company last week announced a sharp interim

profit advance to £2.58m from sales of nearly £70m. It is expected to make more than £11m for the year with indications it is enjoying bumper Christmas trading.

I Psion, the hand held compoter group, has avoided the indignity of relegation to the backwater SEATs share market by recruiting a market maker to replace NatWest Se-curities. ABN Amro Hoare Govett has come to the rescue and started trading in the shares yesterday. The price, which has been under pressure on the SEATs threat, improved 15p to 820p.





MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR 14.00 3648.6 up 18.6 15.00 3843.4 up 13.4 12.00 3650.4 up 20.4

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: ar Ex rights a Ex-dividend a Ex all a Unlisted Securities Market a Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. Source: Finnat.

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RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAIL

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WO

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Warrington have warned off any clubs pursuing their Welsh international, lestyn Harris, insisting that he is not for sale at

The game a bush telegraph is play either code or both.

"I have had the go-ahead buzzing with reports that Leeds or Wissis would match the world record £500,000 that took Paul Newlove to St Helens in order to get their hands on Harris. There is manoeuvring going

on," Graham Armstrong, War-rington's chief executive, said. "There have been no firm offers, our game."

Warrington, last year's beaten warrington, last year's beaten trawn to but he is simply not for sale in any case. He is the last person on our books we would sell." Harris, still only 19, shone for Wales in the World Cup in October and has since had soproaches from Welsh rugby

Warrington have also found their young loose forward. Paul Sculthorpe, in Leeds' sights, but are equally adamant that he is not leaving. "We should be flattered, because it shows what good young players we have got, but they are not going any-

where," Armstrong said. . The former Warrington and

has set up an office in Cardiff Leeds, the only side to beat to recruit players for what would be rugby's first year-round, mixed code club.

Nicholas' old union clab, Aberavon, are planning to enter a side in the Second Division of the Rugby League and he is looking for players to

from the League and from Aberavon," Nicholas said. "I want to break down the barriers. It could be a complementary thing with league getting es-tablished here and union players

finalists, have been drawn to meet St Helens at Knowsley Road in the first semi-final of the Regal Trophy on 30

Their Australian scrum-half, Greg Mackey will leave for home after the match against Castleford on Friday. Mackey . had been linked with the job as coach of the Super League team in Paris, but a French coach will be appointed this week.

The Regal holders, Wigan, who are likely to be without Andy Farrell until January now that he has decided to have a Wales forward, Mike Nicholas, groin operation, are at home to

them this season, on 6 January. Wigan could also be without Va'aiga Tuigamala with a gashed knee and Jason Robinson with a shoulder injury for their match against Halifax tomorrow night.

Halifax have signed the Auckland Warriors utility player, Martin Moana, on a two-year contract. Moana is one of the players released by the Warriors as they trim down their squad

for the Super League.
"He comes recommended by John Monie and also by Dean Bell, who played along-side him," Steve Simms, the Halifax coach, said.

Moana, aged 22 and a former Junior Kiwi, made six firstteam appearances for Auckland last season, and will arrive as soon as he has obtained a work permit. Primarily a stand-off or loose forward, he can also play

Oldham have been fined £4000, suspended for 12 months, for deliberately fielding a weakened side against Warrington in August. Keighley have given an under-

taking not to sign any more players after falling behind on payments for previous transfers. REGAL TROPHY Semi-finals; St Helens v Warington (30 December); Wigan v Leeds (6 January).

Only when a rider has been

separately). Since the new sys-tem should make it harder for

most jockeys to book themselves

'a trio to the Square, those who

do can expect stern treatment,



Switzer pays full price for call

American football

A dubious call by the Dalias Cowboys head coach Barry Switzer backfired on Sunday and let in the Philadelphia Eagles. Switzer elected to go for a first down on fourth-and-one at the Cowboys' 29. Emmitt Smith's run was stopped for no gain, but the referees blew the whistle for the two-minute warning prior to the snap.

Switzer left his offense on the field and ran the same play and Smith was halted again. Philadelphia ran three plays that gained four yards, then Gary Anderson kicked a field goal from 42 yards to win the game 20-17.

Philadelphia (9-5) moved to within one game of leaders Dallas (10-4) in the NFC East. Despite the loss, Dallas clinched a play-off berth when Chicago and St Louis lost.

Steve Young threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score as the San Francisco 49ers beat the Carolina Panthers 31-10. The 49ers have won five consecutive games to tie Dallas for the best record in the NFC.

Atlanta Falcon's Morten Andersen became the first NFL. kicker to succeed with three field goals of more than 50 yards in a game. He added another of 25 vards as the Falcons beat the New Orleans Saints 19-14.

Sri Lanka try to repair image

Cricket

Sri Lanka 251 and 330 Australia 617-5 dec (Australia win by an innings and 36 runs)

After losing the first Test by an innings at Perth yesterday Sri Lanka submitted a two-page report to the match referee outlining their view of the incident on Saturday which led to them being found guilty of ball-

tampering, On the field Shane Warne aptured three wickets, taking his total to 201 in just 42 Tests. AUSTRALIA - First innings 617 for 6 dec (M J State 2J9, M E Waugh 111. R T Porting 98, S G Law 54nor.

Total 330, 2-56, 3-87, 4-105, 5-193, 6-258, 7-310, 8-318, 9-319. Bowling: McGrath 24-7-86-3; McDermott 20-3-7-33 inthio; Warne 29-4-6-96-3; Julian 13-4-40-1; Waugh 4-0-22-0; Law 1-1-8-0

Twose stands firm

New Zealand 286 & 158-7

New Zealand, set 357 to win. were fighting to avoid defeat against Pakistan in Christchurch. Roger Twose made an unbeaten 44 in just over three hours, but at the end of the fourth day but New Zealand were struggling at 158 for 7. The leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed

did most of the damage, taking 5 for 43 from 27 overs.

(Overnight 369 for 7)
"Woom Alarm o Remang a Courts
Mustag Attmed c German b Larsen
Wagar rouns live b Larsen Total 434
Fall (cont): B-384 9-425,
Bouland: Moment 27-5-99-2; Nash 30-6-91-2;
Carrs 35-6-114-3: Patel 24-8-61-1; Lorsen 29-

NEW ZEALAND - Second inne
8 Young c Laif o Musman
C Spearman c Sofial b Musman
A Parise libri o Musman
R Teose not out
C Carms c Malk b Musman
IL Germon on out
D Pinel b Musman
D and out out u-Rehman 9-1-23-1. Umpires: 5 Duning and 8 C Coorsy (Sn Lanka).

Jockey Club matches the punishment to the crime

ares Cusio

Five years ago, few would have believed that the words Jock- Britain this year. ey Club" and "responsive" would ever occupy the same by the Jockey Club yesterday. sentence. But just weeks after coming into effect on 1 January its overhaul of the local stewarding system the Club yester- culated on a rolling 12-month day announced significant basis rather than the current syschanges to the process for penalising errant jockeys, which wiped clean at the end of a sea-were prompted, at least in part, son. When a jockey is found by the concerns of the riders guilty of a riding offence, local

The most persistent of these worries was the growing numcally referred to the Club's count. This would range from Disciplinary Committee for a cantion (for example, for a punishment - almost invari- first whip offence in 12 months) ably a long suspension - fol- or m to a 10-day ban for carelowing their third offence of the less raume, 10 10 to 14 days, or season. This could mean a rid- an immediate referral to Porter receiving a lengthy ban for a man Square, for particularly severy minor third indiscretion, a rious cases of reckless riding or

Sound

money

for Man

One Man was backed for the

King George VI Chase yester-

day. Coral cut the grey's odds from 100-30 to 5-2 for the Box-

ng Day event at Kempton. William Hill, who started yesterday quoting One Man at 11-4 trimmed his price to 5-2. One factor behind the moves

problem exaggerated by the intentional interference.

ever-increasing workload of many jockeys. Lanfranco Dettori has partnered a onceunthinkable 1,000 horses in Under a new system outlined

1996, suspensions will be caltem, under which the slate is stewards will impose a penalty purely to match the severity of the infringement, and without

suspended for a total of 12 days or more will he be referred to the Disciplinary Committee, and only on the next occasion he commits a similar type of of-fence (as at present, riding and whip penalties will be treated

with a ban appropriate to the offence plus a minimum of 14 days for the accumulation. "Jockeys who persistently break the rules deserve a long Mildmay-White, chairman of David Harrison, who ride to the the committee. "The referral new rules, and even they missed system, away from the pressures of the racecourse, allows the committee to consider a jockey's riding as a whole. This pro-

vides the opportunity for advice as well as punishment." The Club will also be able to

up to six months, to allow a rider to attempt to address his bad habits. The new system will also start from scratch on I January, with no account taken of transgressions during the past 12 months, a point which particularly pleased Michael Caulfield, secretary of the Jockeys' Association.

"We were very pleased to be part of the decision-making process and I'm optimistic that the new package is fairer and reflects the demands that a 12month season puts on jockeys, Caulfield said. "I'm thinking of significant parts of last season because they made a tiny error." And most hopeful of all,

perhaps, is the feeling that the spirit of co-operation seems likely to persist well beyond the

3.15 HVCA SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,250 added 2YO 6F (AW)

6 YEARN OLIVER (IZR) 8 McMJron 6 McMJron 5 Sanders 5 San

12 PARELIE C I HE 8 8 J. Quint 12
13 002 QUBDITESSA QUO 8 Pair g 8 8 R Perham 12
. — 13 doctored —
BETTING: 4-1 Micriso Street, 9-2 Lady Edet, 5-1 Loch Style, 6-1 Quintones, 7-1 Irrage Maler, 8-1 Flood's Pascy, 12-1 others

3.45 RADIAL AND AXIAL GROUP HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,150 added 7f (AW)

OCCIASS F) (DIV () £3,150 added 77 (AW)

OCCIASS F) (DIV () £3,150 added 77 (AW)

OCCIASS F) (DIV () £3,150 added 77 (AW)

OCCIASS F) (DIV () More 18 11 ____ S Withworth 2

E55530 DOWT 651 CAUGHT (12) IL Harrs 39 11 _____ J F E584 5

334002 BORART (29) (DIV C Fairtuss 4 9 7 ______ J Tate 1)

OCCIASS F) (DIV () F Fairtuss 4 9 7 ______ J Tate 1)

OCCIASS F) (DIV () F Fairtuss 4 9 7 ______ J Tate 1)

OCCIAS WAY E SIN (29) (DIV () Raine 5 9 4 _____ J Tate 1)

OCCIAS SHEET INSTECT (13) (R) R Person 5 9 4 _____ J Tate 1)

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SOCIOS DREMA CARGER (13) (R) R Person 7 9 3 ______ No Cabe (3) 8

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00000 GREEN'S 8ID (13) (0) D Crammar 5 8 9 P Feedry (5) 1 0-0000 WOUVER MERPHY (69) K NoCAUTIO 3 8 9 Grains 8 604000 JON'S CHOICE (13) (00) 8 Presen 7 8 8 N Admin 12

FOLKESTONE

12.30 Pair Of Jacks 1.00 Full Of Oats 1.30 Vallant Toski

3.00 LE CHAT NOIR (nap) 3.30 Southsea Scand

Refurband, undulating course with a run-in of one furions.

Rescentize is 6 miles was all fown off A2D Was enhanger re-beay station between from London, Charmy Crass) adjoint, rourse, ADMISSION: Club \$12 (under 1% five);
Tattersulls \$8.50, CAR PARK, Free; Course Enricenty \$1, plus \$4 for each occupant.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS; J Gifford — 13 without him fell runners gives a success ratio of 20.5% and a loss to a 5.1 level stake of 59.5%; R Rower — 10 withouts, 48 runners, 18.5%, +\$1.51; O R Grissell — 8 withouts, 58 runners, 15.1%, +\$4.8.8%; M Pipe — 7 withouts, 25 runners, 29.1%, -\$0.92;
LEADING JOCKETS; A Magniter — 12 withouts, 69 rules, 17.4%, -\$19.09; R Dunwoody — 10 withouts, 51 rules, 19.7%, -\$11.70; J Osborne — 7 withouts, 49 rules, 11.7%, -\$7.4%; M Etchards — 6 withouts, 25 rules, 24%, +\$10.70.
WENNERS IN LAST SEVEN BATS; Le Chat Noir (3 hu) with at Plumpton on Tuesday, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS; Valinat Tooks (1 120), Preentan Girl (2.3%), Chaptrasia (3.300) & Ean So \$100 (9.30) leave been seru 123 miles by M Pipe from Neroloskaytte. Devon Basher Sharp (3.00) & Doubdressfordinner (12.00) sent 218 miles by C Puphom from West Bagburough, Sumerset.

12.30 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m If 110yds Penalty Value £2,226

INVER (B) (D) (Donadossforcemer Partnership) C Popha

BETTING: 7-4 Inculcato. 7-2 Mourous Biller, 4-1 Grey Fisch, 11-2 Soleil Dancer, 6-1 Pair Of Jacks, 7-1 Doubtressforthwer, 14-1 Night in A Million. 25-1 Northern Highlight 1994: Pyramis Prince = 10 13 J Osborne 5-1 (Miss H Magnis 8 ran FORM GUIDE

1994: Pyrams Prince = 10 13 J Ustoma 5-1 Mus H Nagris 8 am
FORM GUIDE

MEANUS MILLER was staying on steadily from the real when fourth behind Lightering Lad at Chepstone has morate on her reappearance and then made the running to the penutivisms flight when Celibare beat her all Towoester. While that may not have been the result expected after a prometing comeback, it was just that she met a better horse on the day. The winner has gone civile to following up over a longer trip and Meanus Miller is well worth another chance. Include the tail is some good races and it can only be a matter of time before he gets his head in from. His two-length sectord to Zephyrus at Warwich last, month was made to took even better after the winner beat Shankar at Challenham on Friday, but he stift has no easy table, conceding so much weight all count. Gery Finch was relegated to sound place after making all the numing and edging across Emitopalities and in his table as the country, and he may struggle even with his low weight. Dorttdressfortfirmer ran away with a Plumpin seller in October and his letter effort, staying on in second behalf Project's Natire at Ludiow, suggests he can hold his own off bottom weight in this league. He certainly stake better tran Regist in A Mission. Pair of Lacks may not be quite ab promising as his figures suggests. Solid Danier's recent runs do not give too much encouragement, but he is co-paste of better and the stable brought back to Chat Noir to win recently after a loy-off, Selection: MEANUS MILLER.

100 HEATHFELD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added

Minimum weight 10st. The handcap weight Store Rose Str. 10
BETTING: 11-4 Rayal Square. 4-1 Egithy Player, 9-2 Full of Date, 6-1 Coloracille, 13-2 Annio Chilone,
8-1 Chenge The Reight, Woodlands Sey, 12-1 Sepan Mart, 25-1 Brone Rose
1994: Annio Chilone 6-11, 9-P Hate 7-1-U Gifford: 11 ran
FORM GUIDE
If FULL OF OATS is an effective on this better ground he has every chance of confirming
last season's counte and dustance win on the soft one-Woodlands Boy on only 5ib viotics
terms. He does manage it the winning margin is unbisely to be as tan, as Woodlands Boy
has had two runs over hundles to shorpen him, running well each time, where as Full 0f Oats
tash had just the one run all Taumon and never got into the ratio stree making a mess of
the water early on. Royal Square did well to come back after 18 morths off and hold previous winner Ask The Governor by a head of Windson. He had a hard race, however, and
though he has gone to just 5ib for that, he has a lot more weight on his book thas time
After warning two fartifs soft races. Equity Players was the only one to make a race of n with
Geba Visu at Warnets. The winner is quite decent and Equity Players centrified to go dose
on that nun. Change The Reigh was not obte to confirm Market Rasen form with Jumny
O'Dea on 3to worke terms at Lencester last pime. That doesn't took quite good enough, while
Columnable was getting 11to when beading Jurmy O'Dea a length over the course and dis-1.30 LYMPNE NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added

- JA declared -

FORM GUADE

Gloweter Lady, having had a bit of use made of her in her two previous outings, was held up when chasing home Head For Nearen in a Formwell seller a foringin ago. That form tooked even becart when Head For Heaven won carrying 12st 7th at Pumption last week and Cloweter Lady has an obvious chance. Vallant Yould made all for Martin Pipe in a meleand-a-half seller at Brighton in the summer and could easily have learned enough from his run at Wincardon in Discober to dictote to this easier grade. Happy Hostage has not had a fot of racing serice wirming three times on the Plat last year and shaped fairly well on his

come on appreciably for it, but a chance is taken that INTENTION has retained sufficient ability. On his lists lever run over hundles inherition ran third behind previous winner First Avienue at Windsor in March last year. He showed nothing in four outnigs last season, including in a selicir over an extra five furlough here 12 months ago, and was having his first run since their when sorth behind tymein at Windsor recently. Having had every chance at the second last he was not persevered with once beaten and his present yard may have left a but to work on. Rahapochi Queen staved on through beaten mais when third to False Circle in a Phumpton charge last week. That was not a bed first effort over hundles and some of those beand were benef than platers. She should improve on that and is more gromsing than Desert President.

Selection: INTENTION ability. On his first ever run over hurdles Intention ran third behind previous wither First Av

2.00 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £4,110

FORM GLIDE.

This looks like being a toss-up between No Pain No Gain and LORINA-GAIL. No Pain No Gain and LORINA-GAIL. No Pain No Gain and the first on his chasing debut and then faking when well clear five out at Fontwell, where he was quickly remounted and so nearly got back up. He was a decent faintiler and will not be long making his mark over fences. Loria-Gail has had her problems Gance coming from Ireland, where stell was one of the better staying hurdlers. Having been way out of touch in three runs in 1993-94, she missed the whole of lost season and was having her hist face in 20 months, and net first must be problem, season and was having her hist face in 20 months, and net first over lendes, when third to Hebridean and hing Lucier in a hit; house chose at Wordes for 15 days ago. She had a chance thies, but and will come on a lot for the outling. Graph-tic Dostgner, second of four finishers to Foxbox in a three-mide numble at Asopt, certainth

2.30 SELLINDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2.30 SELLINDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m of 120 yds Penaity Value £2,213

13-0305 EPRIT DE FERME (22) (0) libs: I. Browing 0 Browing 9 11 11 ... M A Ritgardd 13 1: SISTER STEPHANIE (365) (The Arawch Parmersin; Mrs. M Nichour 6 11 7 ... 6 McCourt 0.957.45 Manifella (0.00) (20) Mrs. Carolno Marmi S Davi 6 11 2 ... M P McCourt 0.97 3.15 PETTUREN (0.10) (0.01

Minimum weight: 10st, True handkap weights: Anger's Pai 9st 10fc, Captain Coe 3st 2fc, Ponte-econd

1984: no corresponding race FORM GUIDE

PREENKA GIRL, formerly only a plater over hurdles, has come into her own since tacking lences and has five wins and a second from her sk outings this season. If does not follow that she will carry that improvement over to truding, but site is rared 23to least over these smaller obstacles and that is fair loo much to lightne. Sister Stephanic could be anything. An linsh point-to-point winner, she beat Gamylough in a bumper two seasons ago and won her only start over hurdles tast term. But an absence of a year is something of a handcap, Pettangin has every hope of confirming his sever-tength win from the flagging Dustin over course and distance last month - Esprit De Feinne J well-beaten fitth - on 8th better terms. He was left with too much to do ned time.

Selection: PREENKA GIRL

SHADDOXHURST CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m Penalty Value £2,588

— 7 declared — BETTING: 9-4 Le Chef Noil, 5-2 Manabosthouse, 4-1 Dante's Delight, 5-1 Rather Sherp, 12-1 Precious Wonder, 25-1 Vodka Rzz, 33-1 Jayanath 1994: Pegmanne 11 11 6 J A McCarthy 2-1 (Mrs. A M Vaccinosi ≤ ran

FORM GUIDE

Maiden point-to-pointer Dante's Delight was 18th out of the handicap when falling by the Maden point-to-pointer Dante's Delight was 18th out of the Nandscap when falling by the fighty-tood seven-year-old's best effort to date and distance last month. That was the fighty-tood seven-year-old's best effort to date and six he has much more chance in this weaker race. Yet, with all his weight, LE CHAT NORE is well in as he was 8th out of the handscap when bearing The Carmot Main in the show at Pumpton last week. He is 20 rower here, even with a penalty. The Carmot Man had won his two previous starts and that result in a small field could prove insteading, but you had to admire the way Le Chat Nor came back again blundering and losing his place at the fifth last. The old horse has been a good seriont over the years and descrives another win. As hard as Rather Sharp tred, he could not close with Sophism in an Eveter seller 11 days ago, though at least it was an amorevement on his first run of the season. He is coming to hard and some or last season's form gives him every chance in this could repeat it, his close fourth behind Doratkus at Bangor in May of last year would put him being there.

Selections LE CHAY NORE

FORM GUIDE

Even if the odds-on Red Blazer drd firmsh lame in third, CHAPRASSI still put up a good performance after almost two years off when winning at Chepstow last month. Count night-handed for the first time should such him, as he has hung night in both his starts, and can follow up. It leas 20 lengths back to the fourth in the bumper at Workester in May in which Chairfo was a well-backed part-favourile and third to Best Of Friends. He should no have any trouble belong up to race on that showing. The Plat-bred Sounds Like Fun come from a yard with a good record in bumpers.

Selection: CHAPRASS

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Sister Stephanie (Folkestone 2.30) NB: Lorna-Gail (Folkestone 2.00) was confirmation that the Irish-

trained Sound Man will miss the three-mile Kempton event. Thebay will bypass the race to fol-low a more traditional build-up to the two-mile Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Cheltenham Festival in March Couldnt Be Better and Rough Quest, first and second in the Hennessy Gold Cup, are set to clash in the Betterware Cup Handicap Chase at Ascot

on Saturday. Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, obituary, page 16

Heat over frost

Edward Gillespie, the official in charge at Cheltenham on Saturday, could face discipinary action after the Jockey Club yesterday ordered reports to be drawn up over the late abandonment of the meeting.

Gillespie has come under fire for his handling of information concerning the frozen state of the track.

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0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.15 Hill Farm Dancer 1.45 Little ibur 2.15 Itsinthepost 2.45 Dr Caligari 3.15 Quintes-sa 3.45 Don't Get Caught 4.15 Buckley Boys (nb) 4.45 Desert Invader

GOING: Standard, STALLS: 71, 1m 61, 2m - outside; remainder - inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 61 to 1m 4L

Fibresiand, left-hand, oval course.

Resecutorse is north of town on A449 Stafford road. Bus service from Volverhandron railway station (service from London Euston) I'm away. ADMISSION: Members £15; Grandstand £6.

CAR PARE: Prec.

BLINERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Buckley Boys [4.15]
was over hurdlest at Sedgeficial on Wednesday.
LONG-DUSTANCE RUNNIERS: Northern Spark [4.45] sent
265 miles by Mice L Perrant from Ayr, Strathcipde.

1.15 M AIR CONDITIONING AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,150

10 538000 PRALLE WONDER (231) N Subseque 7 9 8. Mass C Pogna (5) 9

1.45 BAXI HEATING CLAMBNG STUKES (CLASS F) £3,650 added 6f (AW)

— 203.030) - LTTLE (MARL (200) (200) P D ENNE 4 9	T
		Amenda Sacriere (7)
2 . 211500	CREDIN COST (26) (C) N Littmoden 41	
3 010000	CRESTAL LOOP (31) (CD) A Bally 3	2 & Barder
4 153202	SING WITH THE BAND (SI) 8 McMon	on 4 9 2 \$ Sander
	TAPALERS (11) (D) M Poldace 391	
	. Motes (50) / Being 4 6 11	
. 7	RECESSIONS OVER N Literation 48	
2 00	SPLMESTON (16) P.Februs 387	
	AMERICS CONTESSA (10) B Poling 3	
10 450000	GREAT BEAR (18) O Chapman 886	P Feenery (f
11 .050142	MATTHEW DAVID (20) (C) 5 R BOWN	2582_NCorte
12 00,6000	HEX HEL (101) (5) D Hayda Jones 3	80DWH 0
13 . 060000	LAST WORLD (18) J Poleme 3 7 12	Defe
	- 13 declared -	

	2.15 CRANE FLUID SYSTEMS NURSEI (CLASS E) £4,500 added 270 7f (AV
	1 114000 MATTONS MISUNCE (73) (D) A Baby 67 D Weight (S)
-	2 610213 (SEMINEPUC) (33) (SEMINER SE - TAMBON SE - TA
	5 050334 HOMESTET (10) B Smort 6 12 Standars 5 221006 EBOOK BOY (16) (D) J Winner 9 11
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EDITING 3-1 Against Boy, 4-1 Desert Invades, 5-1 Pauchoro, Talganskiz, 6-1 Northern Spank ,7-1 Coleton-C, 10-1 First Sold, 12-1 others

RACING RESULTS

NEWTON ABBOT

12.45: 1. SEASONAL SPLENOUR (D. STIGUSSE) 45 for; 2. Crame HB. 7-1; 3. Come Dennice With Me 15-2. 15 ran. 6, 14. firemed by M. Pho at Welfington, Tothe: 22.10; 51-60. 62-70. [AZ-20], DLB Forecast: 55.70. Computer Smalth Forecast: 58.78. Tric. £15.30. NR: Araboyofi 1.15; 1. COURT MELODY (A. P. McCo) 100-30; 2. Superior Risk 11-8 km; 3. Bellydoughn 50-1. 13 ran. 15. dec; 7. Bellydoughn 50-1. 13 ran. 15. dec; 7. Bellydoughn 50-1. 13 ran. 15. dec; 7. Mustahil 8-1; 3. Kos 10-1. 7 ran. 1-4 for Dense Dance (4m), 5, 3, 4 ft 5 House, Therton), Tother £15.80; £3.90, £3.90. DR: £20.30, CSP: £97.29.

2.15; 1. JAMES THE FIRST (A P McCoy)
7-1; 2. Zajra 7-2; 3. Northern Saddler
11-8 lav. 5 ran. 1/2, 9. IP Nicholis,
Sheyton Masen, Totas (5.10; E. 40, £1.60.
DF: £8.30. CSF: £6.96.
2.45; 1. MONTAGNARD (Mi R Thomson)
15-1; 2. Time Fav A Flutter 6-4 lav, 3. 1/2
ing Eyes 10-1.15 ran. 6, 25; Mt Brustock,
Newburyl. Totas: £9.30, £6.80, £1.50.
£2.80. DF: £51.90. CSF: £41.30, Incost:
£2.80. DF: £51.90. CSF: £41.30, Incost:
£2.83.79. Tho: £116.70.
3.15: 1. BRAMBLENILL 8UCK IA P
McCoy 2-1 Jr-lav. 2. Carer Mas 15-1; 3. Allo
George 12-1; 10 ran. 2-1 Jr-fav Certain
Arge: (40h). 5, 15, IP Nicrols, Shegnon
Masen, Totas: £3.47, £2.60, £7.10.
DF: £28.70. CSF: £32.19 Too: £86.90. Incast: £297.85.

3.45: 1. SORRAB (Jeff King) 9-1: 2. Aal Et Aal 11-4: 3. Arctic Kinsman 4-9 fev. 6 tan. 7. 4. fM Poe, Welington, Tote: 53.70: £2.70. £1.30. £1.10. DF: £28.50. CSF: £36.00. Tho. £3.50. Place 8: £372.55. Place 8: £279.93. Quadpot: £157.60. Placepot: £33.80. Jackpot: not eon. A pool of £5.024.99 is car-ned lorwerd to Wolverhampton today.

Folkestone does not expect the weather to affect today's card, but Bangor (tomorrow). Towcester (Thursday) and Hereford (Friday) could face problems if there is no thaw.



Netherlands face dilemma over Bergkamp's selection



the Dutch without Dennis Bergkamp. But that is the dilemma eating away at coach Guus Hiddink ahead of tomorrow night's European Champi-onship play-off against the Republic of Ireland at Anfield.

Bergkamp, given a new lease of life by Arsenal after two years of torment in Italy, will probahly be spared the humiliation and claim his place after spending a week recuperating from an Such is the concern about his

form for the Netherlands that the issue has clouded preparations for a game which determines who qualifies for the fi-nals of Euro 96 in England

While Berkamp - the world's most expensive footballer when he left Ajax for £8m - struggled in an Internazionale side that failed to accommodate his prodigious talent, he always produced the goods at international level. Now, as the 26-yearold's cluh career begins to take off at Highbury, he cannot score for a Dutch side that considers itself fortunate to still be in with

a chance of qualifying. The doubts that haunted his time in Italy have now followed Bergkamp on to the national

Rob Fleur reports on a possible change in Dutch tactics against the Republic

eeeding Dick Advocaat last year. Bergkamp's performances for the Netherlands have been on a downward spiral since the World Cup in the United States, but so far he has been an everpresent in the European Championship campaign. He is included in the squad

for tomorrow night, but will Hiddink do the unthinkable and drop the self-effacing play-er? Maybe a clue came in the

stage, leaving Hiddink with his last match against Norway at higgest headache since suchome, which the Netherlands won 3-0 to finish second in

> Bergkamp, with just one goal in the qualifiers, was so ineffective that he was replaced by Your Mulder, who promptly scored. Despite such an obvious show of dissatisfaction, the feeling is that Hiddink will name him in the starting line-up.

There can, it seems, be no half measures. According to sources close to the Dutch camp.

Bergkamp, with 41 caps, is not a player to accept a place on the bench. Indeed, Hiddink is said to believe it pointless to call up someone of such calibre if he is not to play from the outset. Nevertheless, the worries re-

main and the manager must figure out how to lift Bergkemp for a game in which his skill could be a decisive factor. Hiddink apparently believes the answer is to take the troubled player back to his glory days with Ajax and slot him into a familiar position. Under this scenario, Patrick

Kluivert would play up front with Bergkamp constantly lurk-ing just behind - a relationship

similar to the one he is enjoy-ing with Ian Wright at Arsenal. Because of suspensions, the Ajax system would also allow Hiddink to move inspirational midfielder Clarence Seedorf

into central defence alongside Danny Blind, Ronald de Boer would take up his usual position on the right side of midfield, with Mark Overmars and Bergleamp's Arsenal team-mate, Glenn Helder, on the wings.

The Dutch are at pains to stress the importance of this game. Their European dreams by the Czech Republic in

them a lifeline by upsetting the Czechs and by the time they beat Norway, the Netherlands – who have not missed a major tournament since 1988 - were beginning to look the part again.

mer Sc

Now, with Ajax continuing to carry all before them at club level, they are determined to maintain that improvement. Despite his doubts about Bergkarun Hiddink is in bullish mood. "Do I consider being beaten by the Irish? No, not at all," he game. Their European dreams said, "because a country that were in tatters after a 3-1 defeat succeeds twice to undo an elimination should never lose the

Conquering the boxer's pain

John Roberts, in the second part of an investigation into sports psychology, hears how a hypnotherapist has helped transform the career of Steve Collins

armen Basilio, a rugged world welterweight and of the 1950s who numbered Sugar Ray Robinson among his conquests, was asked if it helped to bless himself before each round. "Not if you can't fight," he replied.

Something similar might be said in relation to Steve Collins, Ireland's World Boxing Organ-isation super-middleweight champion, who has brought a new dimension to applying mind over batter. Collins goes into the ring with a clinical hypnotherapist in his corner who professes to have trained him to be able to control pain and bleeding.

According to the hypnotherapist, Tony Quinn, this is achieved through "the unconscious attention response", a process he says he has used to help hospital patients undergo surgery without anaesthetic.

One volunteer was his secretary, Colette Millea, who decided to have her ears pinned back. "Often the people that you know are the hardest to work with," says Quinn, a consultant to a chain of Irish health centres whose expertise in concentrating the mind has been sought by actors, politicians and husinessmen

So how does the "unconscious attention response" theory work? "If I asked you to give me your full attention, and I'm talking about something you're not interested in you may not bother giving me any attention at all. So I call that inattention. If you are studying a subject that you're not really interested in. you can pay conscious attention, where you force yourself to pay attention, because you have to pay attention.

Then there's the third aspect, which is called unconscious attention, where you're so totally involved in the subject that there's no part of you left over that's conscious that you're paying attention, if that makes sense. It's like being so totally involved in a good book that you don't hear traffic sounds around you or a person speaking to you.

"A simple example of it was when I was working with Dr Jack Gibson, who supervised my research with the University of East London, Dr Gibson found that if he had to stitch the face of a person who had been in an accident, and they looked to him desperately in a state of fear to do something for them, that is a state

that point, and if the doctor says to them, 'If you relax completely you're not going to feel it, in fact it will feel very pleasant to you, you'll actually enjoy it', amazingly enough it actually seems to take place.

"Strictly speaking, I don't see myself as a hypnotist. I don't control anybody's mind. I help them gain control of their own mind, to get it to do what they want it to do. I'm not a medical doctor, it's very important to say that. I have a doctorate in clinical hypnotherapy and a masters degree in psychother-apy and I'm also doing a PhD in psychology, I also have qualifications as a PT instructor and in the area of nutrition. I won 12 national titles as a hodybuilder, so I know about



weight-training, and I also have a hackground in martial arts." Collins has given Quinn his undivided unconscious attention all year after seeing him on a television chat show in which the hypnotherapist was asked by Wayne McCullough, the World Boxing Council bantamweight champion, if the technique could be applied to boxing. Since he started to work with Quinn, Collins has won two world title fights against Chris Eubank and a

third against Cornelius Carr. Eubank complained that Collins was being turned into a machine by Quinn and would not be aware of the damage inflicted on him during a fight. "Eubank also said in a TV interview." Quinn recalled, "that he thought that boxing was 85 per cent psychology and 15 per cent training. So to me it makes sense to train the mind. And I firmly believe that the athlete of the future will also be a mental athlete.

"Basically, all 1 did with Steve was help him to use more of his mind to hring out what was already in there. You can't bring out what's not in there. It is true, I believe, that someone who is mentally

"The person's whole mind is trained has an advantage, bewrapped around the doctor at cause to a fair degree you can control your energy, you can control the pain, you can control the bleeding. And, even more importantly, you can actually control your recovery after the fight is over.

Where normally, Steve told me, he could have great pain all over and every muscle in his body would ache for about two or three weeks afterwards, he was OK within an hour or so. He could control his own pain, even to the bruises and swellings, as we found that people did in the operations.

Before you start into an operation, you train the person how to control their blood flow. It can be amazing. If the person starts to bleed heavily you can actually say to them, 'Stop that bleeding', and the person will actually stop the bleeding. You can control much more of the symptoms in the body than most people realise, provided you don't let opposing thoughts go in there. You have to be congruent all in one

direction with the training." Is there not an ethical point that if performance-enhancing drugs are banned by sports authorities why allow perfor-mance-enhancing hypnother-

There's no doubt it would enhance performance," Quinn szys, "but I don't necessarily use hypnotherapy. We've developed what we think is a different approach. Sports people are all looking for an edge, and it's much safer than taking any kind of drugs. It's really using

just your own mind. "My response is that if something like that is available, then probably more and more people in the sport are going to use it. Some people have a greater ability to control pain, control recovery, control their energy, than others. It will still depend on the person's men-

tal make-up. Quinn said that he and Collins were attempting to limit the amount of damage the boxer suf-fered, but he added: "Having said that, no one can guarantee that you're going to win a fight. That would be be nonsense. Nor could they guarantee that you're not going to be knocked out, or that you're not even go-ing to be hurt. But from my clinical experience it seems to be the safest way to go in there."

The anti-boxing lobby, supported by the number of recent ring deaths and crippling in-



a chance that Quinn will come to regret his involvement in a

hrutal business? Steve and I both agree that we're not interested in damaging anybody. We're only interested in getting the job way. In fact he asks me to put in specific instructions to make sure that he's not particularly damaging anybody, that he just wants to win. He's not in there with the attitude, 'I'm going to murder this person'. That's genuinely true.

"I don't know whether they'll succeed in banning boxing, because then it might go underground, and I think then it can't be supervised, and maybe that's even worse. But I think it will always be with us.

essary to improve his boxing technique. "If, for example, Steve wanted to change his footwork or his punching style I would be told exactly what was required and, in that state of unconscious attention, I would done, and we approach it that say back to him everything that was going to happen. Once you put all that in there it's almost like a programme that the person then works from. It's a very quick way of learning, that's the simplest way of un-

derstanding it. There is a strong possibility that Collins will fight Nigel Benn, who holds the World Boxing Council title. That is bound to be an eyeball-to-eyeball affair, especially since Benn has used the services of Paul McKenna, the stage hypnotist. In addition to Collins's physical welfare. Quinn says he and McKenna in the other.

"According to Paul McKenna. it would be fascinating, Quinn says. "It would be good fun. It would be a great challenge for Steve to fight Nigel Benn. He has a lot of respect

Quinn added: "I was never involved in boxing in my life before Steve approached me af-ter the TV show. I didn't know anything about it. If you had asked me about boxing, the most I could have said to you was, 'Oh, yes, well I think Cassius Clay was the greatest boxer'. I used to think he was very stylish and a joy to watch, hut he's just an example of someone who transcended the sport." An example, also, of someone who believed explicitly in his own ability and could reach into the minds of opponents with devastating effect, and yet who still took too many damaging blows.

Unfair slant to **World Cup draw**

GLENN MOORE

Germany play in South Africa on Friday, with England likely to follow in May. In recent months, Nigeria, Colombia and Japan have all played at Wembley; Ro-mania have played in Brazil and the Japanese hosted Ecuador, Scotland and Saudi Arabia.

Modern jet travel has so shrunk the world that international teams are truly international. Yet Fifa, the game's governing body, remains locked into a regional mentality and tonight's 1998 World Crp draw in Paris will again be split into continental groupings.

This is unnecessary, even un-fair. If the 171 competing coun-tries were thrown, seeded, into the same hat, there would be no need of the politicking and borsetrading that accompanies the di-vision of regional spoils. Nor would the finals have to be inflated into a grotesque 32 teams to accommodate the deals.

If the groups were global, Africa's well-founded claims for more qualifiers could be jusified in competition - as could Europe's case for pre-eminence. Some regionalisation would be sensible. The likes of San Marino, the Soloman Islands and Macao could play regional preliminaries, just as the vided into north and south seccompetition is expected to re-

dise \$2bn (£1.3bu).

succeeds in toppling the auto-cratic João Havelange from the presidency of Fifa, the sys-tem will change. For now we are stuck with the old and Europe, in particular, will be a qualify-ing missefield.

ing minefield,
Back in the days of velvet
hags, England's draw could be
predicted: Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, Albania and Azer-baijan - all places beyond the however, Fifa are not even planning to make provision for keeping the former Yugosla nations apart. In the week, and the city, that Bosnia, Crotia and Serbia (known as Yugoslavia in football terms) are due to signature peace, they may find

themselves drawn together. England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland are pooled in the second group of seeds and cannot play each other. Europe will have 14 qualifiers from 49 entrants plus France, who qualify as hosts. They will be divided into nine groups, five of five teams and four of six. Winners qualify along with the best second-placed team. The other eight second-placed teams will be involved in two-legged playoffs. It could mean playing 12. matches to qualify.
"I am a little bit surprised,"

Terry Venables, the England coach, said yesterday, "that teams would still have to go into a play-off after all that."

tions. Money ought not be a problem, selling the marketing and television rights to the 2002

Warriors' prospects improve ice hockey match to mark down as an

Despite being moved and renamed, Whitley Warriors, now Newcastle Warriors, have hardly had the best of starts. The crowds are holding up but the results (one win and one draw from 12 games) have seen the side rooted to the bottom of the

table writes Steve Pinder. The visit of Humberside

Warriors led 4-1, but they have been in this position before and collapsed. Humberside's siege on Kevin Dean looked like

the beginning of the end. But he held out, the tide turned and Warriors scored five without reply to lead 9-I. Newcastle won 11-4, and although still bottom they looked like a team who had turned the corner. Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

Hawks looked like another TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless status

Shoresbury v Scuetnorpe
Walanii v Torquey (7.46).
Wolfing v Belleid (7.45).
(at Wycombe Wanderss FC)
Postpened: Gravesend & N v Cinderlord Town
TENERNIS SCOTTISH CUP PIRST ROUND

disordy v Artwest MIL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

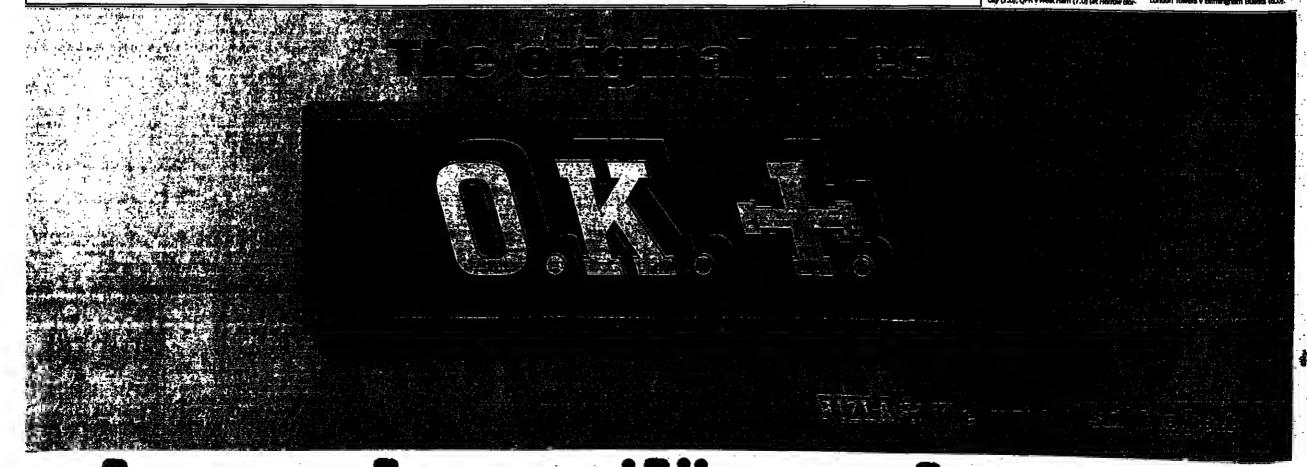
PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Derby V Wolverhempton (7.0). Second Division: Coven-ncy William City (7.0). Retherhem v Aston Ville (7.0). Rugby Union

Segland A v Western Samos (7.0) ...

ough); Wattors v Crystni Palace (2,0), Second Divisions Plymouth v Cardiff (2,0).

Honorem Cup
HENMOGN LEAGUE First Division: Swinson V
Liangli (7.0).
Northern Group: Linking (1.0). COUNTY CHAMPIONS IN Northern Group: Lat-country Chesture (7.15) (at Liverpool St Heisens).

Other sports
TABLE TENNIS: Buspeen League of
women's Internationals: England of
(Fiestings).



The RFU's system of justice makes the Peoples Courts of the former Soviet Socialist Republics appear models of consistency

It is only a year since Adrian Spencer (who is not playing today) came on as a replacement for Cambridge in the University match. An smatch rugby league player, he had mined out in a perfunctory match, with a professional league club. This was neither widely known nor of great interest to most people. But one person told the tale to the Rugby Football Union.

This body normally combines the qualities of the ostrich with those of Lord Nelson. It can simultaneously turn a blind eye and bury its head in the sand, when it suits its purposes to put on the performance.

neither. It did not tell its informant

those alleging the payment of union players. Instead poor Spencer was declared a prohibited immigrant to the Union for a whole 12 months.

Presumably this punitive period of suspension came to a premature end recently, when the free movement of players between league and union was agreed. But with the RFU you can never be sure about these things. It operates a kind of DIY system of justice which makes the Peoples Courts of the former Soviet Socialist Republics appear models of consistency and fair dealing.

Consider the cases of John On this occasion the RFU did Gallagher, Nigel Heslop and Peter Williams, all former union interto jump off Twickenham Bridge - the nationals who turned to league and policy which it had adopted now wish to come back to union. To now wish to come back to union. To

begin with, the RFU indicated that they would be out for the whole of this season. Dick Best, coach for Gallagher's new club, Harlequins. hoped the Union would settle for a

committees decided that Gallagher (together with Heslop and Williams) could start playing immediately and throughout the season in friendly matches but could not appear in league or cup matches. This was a quite arbitrary decision.

yet another example of DIY justice. The other home unions impose no such restrictions. Jonathan Davies could play - has played - for Cardiff in a Heineken League fixture. My feeling is, however, that Davies is keener to make his home



in than to play for Wales, or for

Cardiff. That is entirely his own business. Anyway it is perfectly understandable. He has done everything except, as he says, play for the

Gallagher is two years younger. Rosslyn Park scrum-half. He missed two high balls but otherwise caught player, he languished with Leeds. Indeed, he does not look like a former league player at all. He does not look to get rid of the ball too fast. like a former All Black either. He looks like a normal member of the human race. He is tallish, quite slender still, even slightly frail by modern standards, with the map of Ireland all over his face. Both his parents were Irish, though he was brought up in south London before moving to New Zealand when he was 20.

Arbitrary though the RFU's decision was, it happily enabled him to turn out for Harlequins against Rosslyn Park on Saturday. He successfully place-kicked six out of 11 and scored a try from 65 yards, though he was nearly caught by Tim Smithers, the

and passed beautifully. There were times when I thought he was trying

My impression also was that Quins were treating him rather as Cardiff did Jonathan Davies, If Gallagher came into the line on the right the ball would inevitably be moved left; and vice versa. If Will Carling and David Pears had been playing, I could have understood some resentment on their part. But Quins were fielding their promising, but second-choice, midfield, I should have expected Rhodri Davies, Glenn Harrison and Chris Wilkins to give Gallagher more chances. But maybe that was simply the way the match worked out.

pected Gallagher to play for treland as a centre. Interestingly enough, the current Irish full-back is another Harlequin, Jim Staples. Though there were emergency arrangements for Gallagher to play for Garryowen if he had not been able to turn out for Quins - arrangements that will presumably continue - the present situation is clearly unsatisfactory for club, country and

On Sunday I happened to be talking to a Lord Justice of Appeal, and outlined the Gallagher case to him. The learned judge thought that Gallagher, Harlequins or both could take successful legal action against the RFU for restraint of trade. I hope this is what they now do.

Fringe

players'

chance

to shine

Having dispensed with their Emerging Players XV, the Eng-

their developmental work on

their A side, and in some respecis the team who play West-

ern Samoa at Gateshead

International Stadium tonight

are reminiscent less of the Eng-

land A sides of old than those

who were then trying to emerge.

out neatly, with the Samoans

fielding not a single one of the

players chosen for last month's Test against Scotland. It will.

however, he instructive to see

whether A teams of the future

facing the sterner challenge

presented by Springboks. All Blacks or Wallabies are beefed

up with older lags of the type who have served England well

at this level in the past.

On this occasion, the only full

international will be Richard

West, the Gloucester lock who

won his cap - against Western Samoa - in the World Cup. As

for the uncapped remainder.

England A are brimful with gen-

vine England contenders, and

that has not always been the case.

lonight's encounter, which is

more or less meaningless for the

islanders with the England

match four days away, is to see

whether Alex King, the 20-

year-old student stand-off who

has eschewed league rugby.

can make a second step after

successfully completing the first.

Not that the choice has oth-

erwise been universally wel-

comed. How could it be when

the North have just won the Di-

visional Championship as well

as beating the Samoans and yet

have only two players from

northern clubs. Tim Stimpson

and James Navlor, in the side?

from university to division.

The particular fascination of

As it happens, it has worked

STEVE BALE

Amateur ritual with City appeal

Today's University match will be watched by a world record crowd. Steve Bale reports

As there is seldom anything rational about the rugby that is played in the University match. still less about its outcome, it is more or less impossible to captains refuse to believe that rationalise why so many otherwise rational people should wish to witness the annual Oxbridge ritual.

Even with rughy turning pro-fessional – and with it a new perceived threat to two resolutely amateur rugby academies there appears to be nothing to mute the roaring success of an institution in the sporting calendar. The very fact that the newly floodlit. Twickenham, now holding a maximum of 78,000, will be almost full for this afternoon's 114th enactment of an ancient rivalry is its own justification: a world record for a

Yet when the Bowring Bowl was first put up by a City imancial house in 1976 burely 20,000 were there - and that was a fair improvement on the allnow another 60,000, many of them supposedly decantingfrom the self-same City, who will be there to see (and doubtless be seen at) the Varsity match.

Ours not to reason why, and we can rest assured that for the participants it really will be a case of do or die - if not quite literally. Even Steve Cottrell, the New Zealander who withdrew on the day of last year's match and returned to Cambridge to win his Blue as captain, is experiencing the sensation and as a 28-year-old All Black trialist

he has knocked about a hit. The peril of professionalism is that the prospect of profit will dissuade would-be Blues from pursuing their studies: an antiintellectual priority to which the City hordes about to descend on Twickenham would surely subscribe. With the consequent reduction in the quality of play-ca would come a consequent re-duction in the quality of the match and a consequent fall-off fairly firm favourites." But no in the interest rate. This, at any rate, is the should say such a thing.

St Februard Hall

Militari A Spreadoury (England).

theory, though recent Univer-sity matches could be said already to have disproved it. Whatever, this year's Varsity the lucrative opportunities rugby can now provide will reduce the allure of Oxbridge.

"Cambridge and Oxford are held in such high regard as universities that, even in today's changing environment, there will always be people who want to come for the sake of their education and enjoy their rugby at the same time, Cottrell said. "That's not going to change, no matter how much money clubs may be paying out.". His point is endorsed by the

cosmopolitan composition of his own team - two New Zealanders, an Australian, two Welshmen and an Irishman combining with nine Englishmen - but even better by the Dark Blues, whose exotic melange of four South Africans, four Irishmen, two Canadians and the first time low of 17,000. There are Frenchman to play in a University match, not forgetting four Englishmen, reflects the international status of both the

universities and the match. Here, then, is an easy answer to the sceptics. Less easy is picking a winner, though the portents are precisely the opposite of 1994's when Oxford entered Twickenham on a wave of attacking rugby only to suffer the traditional lot of varsity favourites by losing a truly epic encounter. Cambridge now lead the series 52-48.

This year there is the direct comparison of the universities' recent results against Western Samoa, distinctly unflattering for Oxford who lost 47-15 as against Cambridge's 22-14 victory. "The favourites' and underdogs' tag is something the press centre on to build the match up," Tyrone Howe, the Dark Blues' captain,

more inevitable than that Howe



Frenchman on the edge of history

Jerome Riondet is the very thing that makes him an exciting history-maker in today's Varsity match at Twickenham - his Gallie flair. The Oxford University centre Riondet is the first Frenchman to take part in the 124-year-old fixture and as such is an unknown quantity.

People who have come across him have described Riondet variously as "a character", "mad" and "very talented". It is safe to assume he is all these things, which allied to his obvious ball skill - he has played in a fistful of fixtures for France A - makes him impredictable and therefore a danger to the Light Blues.

The problem with talented centre who can make hreaks," Evans said. "A very penetrative player, he has brought Gallic flair to the side, but we have to contain it at times because our players don't always react to his little antics. I have to balance it with some pragmatism anglais."

The man himself acknowledges the fault, if that is what it is, and says: "Sometimes I try to play too much with the hall, or send a daring pass from hehind our line.

Language is less of a snag than might be expected. "The only problem I experience now," explains Riondet, "is in defence when they are calling out 'My man' or 'Your man'. Certainly his coach Lyn And I do tend to be," a pause, Paris. I love all the museums in Evans is in no doubt. "He is a a verbal Gallic shrug almost, Paris. It is a wonderful city, traditions fairly difficult to

David Llewellyn on Jerome Riondet's intrusion into a very English institution

"enthusiastic in certain situations and I start shouting in French. But really it is no harrier now.'

Rionder arrived in England 18 months ago, studied English in a school in Soho Square in London's West End, hefore going up to Oxford, armed with a degree in journalism from the Sorbonne in his beloved Paris. Grenoble-born Riondet waxes lyrical about the French capital. "I love impressionism and I love

except at the moment because grasp. "I have been reading the everyone is on strike." varsity story." explains Riondel. But if it is that good, why

come to Oxford to study for a

diploma to Social Administration at Mansfield College? "In Oxford it is quiet. It is like a small city in the south of France. You know everybody. you are five minutes from everywhere and for me to be a graduate from Oxford University will

be amazing for me. "I would like to stay on for an extra year to study international relations and then I would like to become a foreign correspondent in London or

maybe South America." As far as making history goes

Riondet finds the whole concept of the Varsity match and its

who hopes to be playing for Harlequins early in the new year. and I am just beginning to realise that this is a very big

event for England.

There is no equivalent university game in France or the world. In France the big thing is to play at the Parc des Princes, but they never stage a university match there. This is going to be a big game for me but I think the thing that is important is not playing in the match but to get my degree from Oxford. Then maybe later, if I stay in England I will realise that people will know me because I got my Blue as the first Frenchman to play in the

There are other A-team northerners - Sleightholme. Archer and Corry - who have gone south to make their rugby fortune and that merely adds to the sense of frustration in the one part of the country where representative rugby has a genuine regional identity.

A genuine regional identify.

BigLAND & I Stropaou (West Hartepool: J Sleightholme (Bath), N Greenstock (Wassos), W Breanwood Hartequirs). J Neytor (Orrelli, A King (Bistol Univ.) A Gomerstal (Wespst.), K Yates (Bastol, P Greening (Gloucester), D Gorforth (Leicester), & Arniber (Bristol), R West (Boucester), M Cony (Gistol), A Diprose "Saraciens, capit), R Hill (Saraciens).

WESTERN SAMOAC A Autagawata (Suburtic), K Teifamada (Scopa), F Ferett (Apia); C Burnes (Innevesty), B Wase (Marst); B Reichty (Manst St Patrick's), D Mattagian (Moaria), G Late (Varnosof), S Lemantee, Scopa), M Birtwistie (Suburtis), K Innesian (Scopa), M Birtwistie (Suburtis), M luneli nitans)



184 The number of lamps that wil hing Twickenham, the nome of rugby union, into the floodlit age for the first time at the University match today.

Light Blues look to law centre



Cottrell got the haematoma in a muscle robbing the talented centre of his first Cambridge Blue. But this year things are looking up, Cottrell is fit to play in the 114th University match for the Bowring Bowl; he is also captain, the first non-Blue to lead Cambridge University since lan Peck back in 1979.

New Zealander Cottrell -amazingly not the oldest man on the field even at 28, that honour goes to Oxford's Canadian hooker Karl Svoboda who is 33 did not come up to Cambridge because of the rugby. He enjoys the game and even made a pre-liminary All Blacks World Cup trial last year, but it was the academic kudos of a Varsity degree that attracted him.

Basketball

"The chance to study for a masters in law at Cambridge University, that was the reason for coming," said Cottrell, who has a degree in commerce and law from Otago University and is now reading for an MPhil in criminology at St Edmund's College. "When I got accepted it was too good an opportuni-ty to miss."

But the game is still impor-tant to Cottrell. "I enjoy rugby over here very much," he said. There's a lot of parallels with Otago University, where I've played a lot of my club rugby. You've got young, talented, enthusiastie guys who want to play an attacking game. Also the advantage in not being in a League structure is that we can afford to try different things." Cottrell, whose New Zealand

David Liewellyn on Stephen Cottrell, the Kiwi leading the case for Cambridge

both a barrister and a solicitor, is fairly dismissive of his appearance in the All Black trial. was in the first extended All Black training squad," he said in a legally matter-of-fact courtroom way, "hut even if I had stayed at home I would never have been in the 35-man squad

"Hopefully I've hrought something of the All Black phi-

Rodgers. As captain I run sessions how I want hut I have been happy to have my input and leave the bulk of the running of training to Ged and Tony. I'd like to think I've introduced a few ideas but it hasn't been a conscious effort." Contrell has had some expe-

rience of captaincy. He led New Zealand Universities into the final of the Students World Cup, where they lost to France. As a member of his country's development squad he went on tour to Argentina. so he is no stranger to the big occasion.
"I played in a Ranfurly Shield Challenge where there was a



about the Varsity match. But once I arrived I quickly took on board all the history and traditions of the club. I am looking forward to it immensely; the build-up to it and the fact that this has been going on for 124

e			James and Parents and Parents	
2	deliberately thought back to	people," he said, "but the thought	the club of the 1885 team in the	و آ
0	what we did at home and tried	of playing in front of 75,000 pco-		ľ
•	to do it here. We have two very	ple is absolutely fantastic.		R
d	experienced coaches at Cam-	"Before I came up to Cam-	a special occasion. I'm delight-	8
5	hridge in Ged Glynn and Tony	hridge I had only heard a little	ed to be a part of it."	L
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law degree qualifies him as SPORTING DIGEST

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WESTERN CONFERENCE	
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Detroit18 7	2 3 107 64

Rugby Union

Millionaire Kerth Banvell is the new owner of Courage Second Division leaders Northampton. The 51-year-old received the almost unanimous backing of members at an EGM to buy the club for Ωm . The decision, by 661 votes to one, means the club, to be known in future as Northampton Rugby Football Club Limited the control of the contro ited, will now become fully professional. Ross Cooper has been appointed assistant to the new All Blacks coach, John Hart. Cooper was assistant to former New Zealand coach Laurie Mains on the All Blacks' recent tour of Italy, and France

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. * '	American football
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	NY Jets 28, Phytadelphia 20 Dallas 17; E falo 45 St Louis 27; Seattle 31 Denver
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NATIONAL POOTBALL CONFERENCE FACTERN DRYSTON 10 4 0 377 258 ...9 5 0 263 298 ...5 9 0 253 292 ...4 10 0 242 364 ...4 10 0 271 319 8 6 0 355 326 8 6 0 358 321 7 7 0 341 336 WESTERN DIVISION Cal Riplem Int, the Baltimore Orioles Al-Star shortstop, has been named Sports-man of the Year by Sports Bustrated magazine. Riplem broke Lou Gering's record of 2,130 consecutive games in Separable, setting a new mark of 2,153 by the end of the season.

NBA: Indiana 311 LA Cippera 104; New York 118
San Armato 312 (2-bd): Advanta 108 Boston 103:
Toronto 93 Variouster 81; Sacramento 110 Naarm 90: 64 Laivess 97 Detroit 82; Portland 103
Houston 101 (2-dd).
EASTERN CONFERENCE ATLANTIC DIVISION VESTEROL CONFERENCE 5 :750 -6 :684 124 6 :647 222 9 :471 64 12 :333 8 12 :294 824 18 :100 13

NATIONAL CUP Fourth round: Newcaste Comes 107 Edde Manchester Garts 121 ker, Sheffield Sherks 71 Chesier Jets. 40. Quarter-final draw: Themes Velley v London Towers, Chystal Peliere v London Leopards; Sheffield v Manchester, Hernel Hernesteed v Birmingham. (Ties to be played 17-24 January). Lusto Esphosa, of the Philippines, beat the Mexican holder Manuel Medina's to win the World Boxing Council feath-Drew Docheny, the British bentamweight. champion who was the other fighter in-volved when larnes Murray died in a bout in Glasgow in October, is to challenge Puerto Rica's Daniel Jimenez for the World Boring Organisation super-ban-tamweight title on 20 January at a venus to be decided.

CASTLE CEP (Feel day of four): Bloemfootseld: Free State 532 for 7 and 113 for 2: Natal 167 and 474 (E Seewart 131, M Warshall 990, D Crones Sci K Wenner 452, N Boy 4-1277. Free State won by eight wickers. (East London): Border 173 and 306 (P Kriter) 104, D Culturan 56, 5 Tholo 55; P Attents 5-128, A Dawson 4-29; Western Province 500 for 5. Western Football

Celtic are building a new £6m stand. The East £nd stand will seet around 12,500, raising the capacity to more than 47,000, it is expected to be ready for the start of next season and Cetic are atready planning to further develop the West side of their ground, eventually increasing capacity to around 60,000. Raith Rovers will receive £40,000 for left-back lason Rowbotham, who moved under freedom-of-contract to Wycombe, an international tribunal meeting in Man-

FA CARLSBERGE WAS FOUNDET-DORNE GROWN
NOTIT Femby Util 4 Nately Nomads; Lipe Town
9 Barwell: Catheron w Wilsonall Town; Trafford
9 Saby You't Flatter to Purson; Festestoria Reseery Dutham City 9 Belser Town; Brigg Town v
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Thomas— Banataad Athletic; Chichester City v Thame

Aimire have signed the goalisepper Andy Rhodes from St Johnstone for £50,000. He makes his debut tonight against

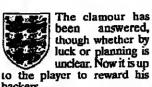
mead Town or Brettwood; Whenthoe Town or Edgister Town v Tabuy or Areley; Paulton Roves; v Hungerlord Town or Mangotsfield United; Can-vey Island v Corleston; Raunds Town or Fur-mass v Tanton Town; Tymingron AFC v Torpont Athletic (Ties to be played 13 January). ice hockey hem 5 Manchester JB; Cheimstord 5 Peiery 5; Durnfres 12 Teford 6; Guidtord 9 Solvud 5; Medway 2 Bradinel 17; Peterstorigh of Biochour 5 Swendon 9 Murroyfield 0. (Sumstay): Biogram 9 Petelsy 14; Biochourn 8 Tetiond 10; Brachesi 6 Manchester 9; Durnfres 4 Cheims ford C; Guidford 12 Murrayfield 0; Peterstorough 6 Manches 4: Solfmid 6 Swendon 1

'Sports people are all looking for an edge, and it's much safer than taking any kind of drugs' Tony Quinn, hypnotherapist, on his role as mind trainer to world super-middleweight boxing champion Steve Collins

Page 26

FOOTBALL: England coach selects prolific Newcastle centre-forward to play alongside Shearer against Portugal tonight

Ferdinand is handed his chance at last



been answered, though whether by luck or planning is unclear. Now it is up to the player to reward his

Les Ferdinand, the Newcas-tle United figurehead and Toon Army totem, starts an England match for the first time under Terry Venables tonight. The opponents at Wembley are Portugal, but it is the ideouty of his partner which is more interest-ing, Alan Shearer, England's

regular centre-forward. With more than 40 goals betweeo them this season the pairing clearly has much to recommend it. Whether Shearer and Ferdinand dovetail as smoothly as Shearer and Sheringham, or Ferdioand and

Beardsley, remains to be seen. Venables' decision to put the Premiership's leading scorers in tandem may have much to do with Teddy Sheringham's injury hut it was by no means his only option. Peter Beardsley or Nick Barmby could have played in Sheringham's linking role and intended to play the two Geordie heroes, one born and ooe adopted, together at some

Ferdinand has been in nine of Venables' squads but played tember last year. That was the last time Shearer scored for England, yet he has only missed one of the 10 matches since.

"I was particularly pleased

"Les has been close for a long

Ferdinand walked out of Wembley after the Switzerland nand did so with Kennatch with the words. "I think at QPR last season.

Irish lose Staunton

Jack Charlton's options for the Republic of Ireland's European Championship play-off against the Netherlands were further reduced yesterday when Steve Staunton withdrew from tomorrow night's match at Anfield, writes Guy Hodgson.

The Aston Villa midfielder pulled a hamstring in a practice game against Wrexham yesterday morning and has no chance of being fit. "It's the reason we had the match," said Charlton, the Irish manager, who is already without Roy Keane and Niall Quinn. "We had to make sure that people who had not

only nine minutes, when he replaced Shearer as substitute against the United States in Sep-

with Alan's performance in the last game," said Venables, re-ferring to the 3-1 win over Switzerland. "I thought he played very well. I have got no qualms about Alan whatsoever and I think I have proved that in my selections. He has played fairly consistently.

time and now his chance has come. He will be under pressure but players have got to be able to deal with pressure. There will be pressure during the Euro-pean Championships. You have got to take whatever comes

played so much this season would be right for Wednes-Quinn's place will be taken by

Tony Cascarino, who since his move to French football with Marseille is feeling "fitter, faster and more confident with my The Dutch have been rein-

forced by the return to fitness of Dennis Bergkamp. The Arsenal striker has been suffering from an injured calf, but a week in the Netherlands has proved recuperative. Selection dilemma over

Bergkamp, page 26

my chance has gone", hut yes-terday be reflected, "I said that in the heat of the moment. It was disappointing to turn up so often and not get involved. In most countries when they get a player scoring a lot of goals he gets in the side.

"I am sure we can work well together but I would lke more than one game. Other people have more than one game to have a crack at it but I may not

Ferdinand's fears appeared to be confirmed when Venables, pressed on that point, said: We have only got one match. This is it and this is his opportunity. That is what competition for places is all about."

The pair will play as "conventional" strikers though Ven-ables will encourage them to "use the width and depth of the

There is a danger that the two, who have not played to-gether, will find themselves taking np the same positions. But both have prospered as part of a twin strikeforce: Shearer has done so with Mike Newell at Blackburn this season, Ferdinand did so with Kevin Gallen

Venables will oame the rest of his side today, a series of in-juries to midfield personnel having delayed his selection. The choice of twin strikers enforces a change in his recent nolicy of playing two wide men. With Steve Stone a near-certain starter this means Steve McManaman is likely to step down.

Two games ago such a move was unthinkable, McManaman having been hailed after his performance against Colombia. But he disappointed against Norway and Switzerland and Stone is now flavour-of-themonth. The level-headed Forest winger will no doubt have noted how quickly fortunes

Terry Venables, the England coach, discusses tactics with Stuart Pearce (left) and Steve Stone at Bisham vesterday

Wolves smooth McGhee's path

Mark McGhee could be installed as the new manager at Molineux within the next 48 hours after Endsleigh League rivals Wolves and Leicester were reportedly trying to reach

Solicitors for both clubs were seeking common ground for a compensation payment which would soften the latest blow for Leicester after the loss of a second manager in a year.

Brian Little resigned for "personal reasons" last November and shortly afterwards joined Aston Villa, who even-

settlement with the Filbert Osman are already being linked Street club. Chairman Martin George

had originally asked Villa for £1.5million for Little, but the eventual figure was never made

McGhee left Reading for Leicester last December, and was on course to give the club a Premiership return until his walk-out last week after speculation linking him with the vacancy at Wolves.

George says he has rejected the resignation, but the likes of Mike Walker, Trevor Francis,

with the Leicester job. Manchester United's big

guns are on the way back, meanwhile, with two of Saturday's missing six set to face Celtic in Paul McStay's sell-out testimonial in Glasgow tomor-

Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel has recovered from surgery on his inflamed elbow and Ryan Giggs should be fit after missing the last two Premiership games with an ankle

Keane is still not ready to play, really good night. Ferguson Denis Irwin is with the Repubadded. "Paul has been a great lic of Ireland and Nicky Butt is suspended, but manager Alex Ferguson is taking all available first team members to Glasgow. The United boss is hoping to

use the game as preparation for Sunday's clash with Liverpool at Anfield and expects a competnive match. "It'll be passionate, because they are Scottish, and they'll be

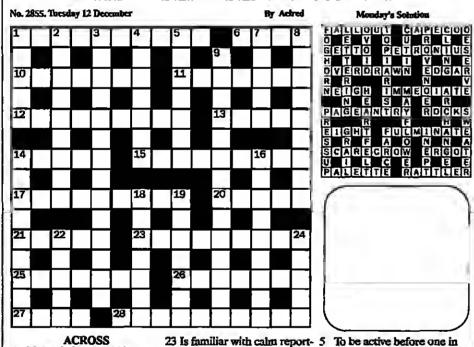
trying like nothing on earth to heat us," said Ferguson. "But that is nothing unusual. It is a

servant to Celtic. He's been a fabulous player for them, and good night for him."

Celtic manager Tommy Burns paid tribute to his captain. "It's good to see a player like Paul getting his just reward because he was at the club when it went through a barren spell and I feel he is the better for it, both as a man and as a

football player," said Burns. "Over the last couple of Gary Pallister is having treat-ment to his back injury, Roy and, hopefully, it will be a strength to strength."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- Union helper could be found amid debris (10)

- weapon (7) 12 Record one's hysterical
- mirth seeing old calculator?
- (9) 13 Ointment to give a lifeline
- to about 50 (5) 14 Extract money from maid-
- eo joining weird cult (5) 15 Teacher's pointed condem-nation of pupil? (6.3)
- 17 Concierge is one concerned about misuse of teak (9)
- 20 Broadcasting in a state of ecstasy (2,3)
 21 There's nothing like one's
- 6 Mark senior's about a hundred and one (4)
 10 Composer boor shakes with 26 Opeo-handed treatment in

ing which saves a bit of

- 11 Crowd accepts a pound for 27 Long hair reported to prin
 - cipal (4) 28 I'm for a boy, a learner, being dispassionate (10)
 - DOWN Leaderless rabble could be causing this? (5) Abnormal Irish artist's
 - weapon must be turned down (9) Leader tests out person
 - who is distinguished politically (5.9) Made official record of very small diamonds (7)
- To be active before one in pub is cruel (7) About to use rod and bas-
- ket (5) 8 Embarrassed to scatter vegetable (3.6)
- Mender of broken bones in Trojan war? (7,2,5)

 14 One reptile, large, kept by
 2000 men as epitome of
- universe (9) 16 After church one male reformed, ooe well known for
- change (9) 18 We're united by this as all
- animals? (7)
 19 Determine to find a different answer? (7) 22 Irishman going round Ger-many in US vehicle (5)
- 24 A hold-up in renegotiation of lease (5)

Strachan's advice sends Whelan to Coventry

Noel Whelan can thank Gordon Strachan for yesterday's £2m move from Leeds United to Coventry City. Ron Atkinson, the City manager, paid out a club record fee for the England Under-21 striker on the advice of Strachan, the former Leeds' midfielder who is now No 2 at Highfield Road.

It is no secret he is a very good player, but when Gordon joined us he spoke glowingly about the player," said Atkin-

Palace defender Chris Coleman. "In fact he said that if there was one player we should get if we possibly could, it was Noel Whelan I tried to get him pre-scason and then again when we played at Leeds a few weeks ago. I must admit I was surprised they let him go this time, but they have laid out some

money to buy in players."
Whelan is likely to make his debut alongside Dion Dublin against Aston Villa on Saturday. The Nottingham Forest ing his peace with manager Frank Clark.

Woan, who was dropped by Clark for Sunday's game with Aston Villa after criticising the club's contract offer and writing off Forest's Uefa Cup hopes, will sign a four-year deal within the next few days.

"I'm delighted at the way things have turned out." Clark said. "Ian and I sat down and sorted ont the football side of things and then came to an agreement over the contract.

concerned. Dropping him punishment enough."

Sheffield Wednesday's £4m signing of the Red Star Belgrade duo Darko Kovacevic and Dejan Stefanovic has been given the go-ahead by the Department of Employment.

Wednesday yesterday an-nounced that work permits had been granted - seven weeks after a deal between the clubs had been agreed. The pair, who are both 21 and Yugoslavian internationals, are due at Hillsborough on Thursday and will

son, who is looking to spend a winger Ian Woan has agreed to The matter is over as far as I'm watch the match against Leeds further £3m on the Crystal sign a new contract after mak-concerned. Dropping him was on Saturday.

Birmingham have withdrawn from a deal to sign Barcelona midfielder Ronnie Ekelund after failing to agree terms with the Danish international.

The Queen's Park Rangers unsettled midfielder Ned Zelic has joined Eintracht Frankfurt in a loan move that could lead to a permanent transfer Alan Thompson has been ruled out of Bolton's plans until February after becoming the third player at the club to require a hernia operation.

Top rider's **England A call for ball inspection** pot arrest

Cricket

England A 199 and 62-2 Pakistan A 300

England A's management asked umpires Iftikhar Malik and Feroz Butt to inspect the match hall last night after Pakistan A reduced their side to 62 for 2 in

the third Test at Peshawar. Shahid Nazir, who removed Nick Knight in a dangerous spell, has swung the ball far more than England's quick bowlers, but that is probably because he is a more natural swing bowler than either Dean Hedley or Ed Giddins.

England A begin the final day of the three-match series, which they lead 1-0, 39 runs behind and with a nervy session or two to see out before they can be sure of the draw that would start victory celebrations.

manager John Emburey and tour manager Mike Vockins -were also seeking clarification on how the officials are policing the problem of shadows across the pitch thrown by close fielders late in the day. Nightwatchman Ian Salisbury was caught at short leg by a ball from off-spin-ner Akram Raza which pitched right in the area of shadow

caused by that same fielder.
But it is the ball enquiry which is potentially controver-sial in a series which has so far been free of the sort of wrangies which have plagued recent England-Pakistan contests. On what is the first tour here since the infamous 1987 trip it can only inflame Pakistani sensibili-

the umpires' room after close of ity that questions were asked the play - captain Hussain, cricket first time England A have been under any sort of pressure. The umpires reported later that there were no problems with the hall, a verifict which was apparently accepted by the Eng-land A management, although

> officially oo the incident. Yesterday Asif Mujtaba, the Pakistan A captain, took his outstanding innings to an un-beaten 147 as the home team batted oo to 300 all out, a lead of 101. After an opening stand of 56, Nazir followed up his first mnings 6 for 64 by having Knight lbw for 15. When Salisbury fell, Shaun Udal was sent in as a second nightwatchman to join Jason Gallian, unde-feated on 42.

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Album Road, Watford

they did not wish to comment

Ather Leig 6-0-26-0; Shehid Nazi 2-1; Shedid Arwer 2-1-3-0; Aleger

instratia crush Sri Lanka, page 25

the day charged with possession of cannabis, a police statement said. He was bailed to reappear

fertile place (5) The delegation which visited A five-a-side football team. And their coach.

A surprising number of people need to carry a surprising number of people. (Judging from the popularity of our new Hijet people carrier that is.) It has six seats, five doors (two of them sliding) and twin sunroofs.

And their coach.

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to Daihatsu Information Services, FREEPOST 506. Sandwich. Kent CT13 98R, Or Freephone 0800 521 700. THE SIX SEAT HIJET

The American Bruce Davidson, one of the world's top three-day, event riders, was arrested in Auckland yesterday and charged with possession of cannabis. Police arrested the 55-yearold Davidson, who won Bad-

minton in May, at Auckland International Airport after suf-fer dogs singled him out. Davidson appeared in the Otahuhu District Court later in

Equestrianism

in court next week. A former Olympic team gold and silver medallist, Davidson was world champion in 1974 and '78 and was the world's topranked rider in 1993. He was in

Auckland for the Puhinui threeday event this weekend.

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